

Annual Report

2021 - 2022



*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners,
the Bunurong and the Boonwurring,
of the places in which we live, work and play.
We recognise and respect the enduring relationship
they have with their country, and we pay our respects to
elders past, present and future.*



Bass Coast
Landcare
Network



BCLN Board Executive

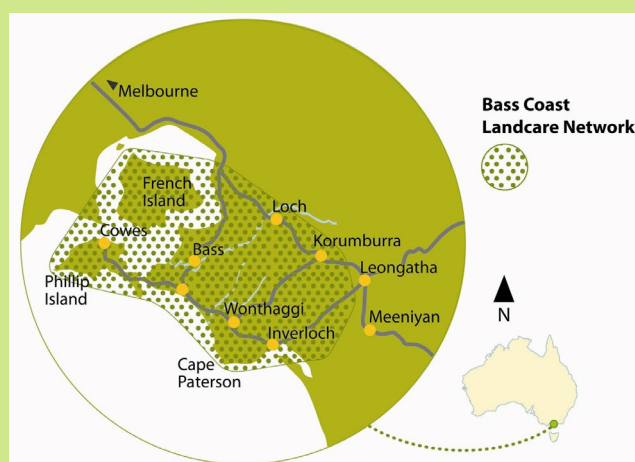
The Chair – Linda Bowden
Deputy Chair – Ric Oldham
Treasurer – Roger Lee
Secretary – Bill Irving

Portfolio Holders

West Gippsland CMA – Paul Speirs
Port Phillip and Western Port CMA – Ric Oldham
Audit and Finance – Don Creed, Roger Lee, Jon Hauser, David Bateman
Risk and Compliance – Ric Oldham, Linda Bowden, David Bateman
People Culture and Capability Committee
 Jean Coffey, Ken Connor, Helen Norman, David Bateman, Robbie Gray, Mark Rowe

Groups and Representatives

Bass Valley – Jean Coffey
3 Creeks – Nick Sibly
Anderson Inlet – Ken Connor
French Island – Linda Bowden
Kongwak – Bill Irving
Korumburra – Don Creed
Phillip Island – Carolyn Atherton
Powlett Project – Paul Speirs



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Background and History

The Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) was formed in 2003 as an affiliation of the Landcare Groups in the region, enabling them to better position themselves for investment from government, local, state, federal and corporate programs. Sixty percent of the 1,400 rural properties in the Network area are involved in and supported by the BCLN.

Under the direction of the Groups and the Network Board, our Landcare Staff manage a variety of programs including;

- Education and Training - Engaging the next generation, supporting a community of practice
- Demonstrating Sustainable Agriculture - Providing pathways to resilient and profitable farming
- Natural Resource Management - Remnant vegetation protection and revegetation
- Invasive Species Control - Integrated management and control
- Works Crew - Assisting landholders in on ground works and offering traineeships
- Indigenous plant nursery - Volunteers growing local indigenous plants for Landcare projects
- The River Garden - A community trials, education, demonstration space and future food hub
- Practical Sustainability - Community action for sustainable farms and homes
- Capitalise on Carbon - Supporting landholders to generate income from sequestration
- Partnerships in Action - Engaging and delivering partnerships in the corporate and agency sector
- Ecosystem Services Delivery - Valuing biodiversity and providing consulting services

The Bass Coast Landcare Network falls in two Catchment Management Areas, West Gippsland and Port Phillip and Western Port. The top of the catchment is characterised by steep hills with slopes from 20 to 40 degrees whilst the lower catchment area is flat and prone to flooding and salinity. Within the catchment there are several small rural settlements surrounded by agricultural enterprises, such as dairying, beef cattle, sheep, and vegetables, which support the majority of the population. Tourism, small rural allotments, and extractive industries are other typical land uses within the catchment.

The Network has the twin focus of changing the understanding and the practices of landholders. In recent years the Network has conducted education and training programs for landholders and facilitated farmer discussion groups to highlight the issues of land management, best practice farming techniques and whole farm planning. In addition, the Network has been successful in gaining funds to support landholders and urban groups to complete works to improve their land. This includes re-vegetation, soil health, salinity control, sustainability, greenhouse reduction, wetland restoration, coastal rehabilitation, pest plant and animal control, improving water quality and monitoring biodiversity.



Our Core Purpose

Educate – Grow – Feed

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a community engaged in supporting a productive, biodiverse landscape incorporating sustainable agricultural practices and innovative environmental enterprises.

Our Mission Statement

To collaborate with our groups, the community, and partners and to enable the delivery of innovative land and environmental management practices to support healthy and resilient communities and ecosystems.

Our Values

The BCLN core values have been drawn from a consultative process between the Board and BCLN staff. They are not rules but represent guiding principles that we should test all decisions and actions against.

Excellence: To strive for high standards in everything we do to create the best outcomes for the community and future generations.

Respect: To maintain a respectful and professional attitude to embrace individuality and different viewpoints and values.

Teamwork: To create a healthy, cohesive, and supportive work environment to ensure collaboration and cooperation are cornerstones of our organisation.

Optimism/resilience: to continually adapt and evolve to change while remaining optimistic and confident in our values.

Integrity: To take pride in working professionally and honestly to achieve outcomes that reflect our values and enhance our reputation as a trustworthy organisation.

*As an organisation we value and support **biodiversity and the natural environment**.*



Our Strategies and objectives 2018-2025

To achieve our core purpose, six key strategies and their objectives have been identified. These strategies and objectives will guide the selection and focus of the activities undertaken by the Network. How the activities are to be managed will be outlined in an annual Operational Plan, compiled, and reviewed in November each year for the coming year.

1. Strong communities engaged and connected through Landcare

- 1.1 Increase volunteer activity by 50% by 2025
- 1.2 Increase new memberships within Landcare groups by 20%
- 1.3 Engage 50 new landholders (average 5 per member group) in Landcare activities per year
- 1.4 Increase level of lobbying on Landcare issues by Landcare groups by 100%
- 1.5 Double funding from corporate sources by 2020
- 1.6 Raise awareness of BCLN within the philanthropic sector
- 1.7 Explore other commercial opportunities that align with principles of the network.
- 1.8 Develop an MOU with the Bunurong Land Council

2. Grow and protect a connected biodiverse landscape

- 2.1 Increase indigenous vegetation cover by 1.5 % per annum
- 2.2 Protect and enhance 40 ha of remnant vegetation per annum
- 2.3 Hold a minimum of 15 community planting days per annum
- 2.4 Increase works crew revenue by 25% by 2025
- 2.5 Facilitate 6 more traineeships by 2025
- 2.6 Establish 50 new Biolinks Projects by 2025
- 2.7 Increase woody weed eradication funding by 30% by 2025
- 2.8 Trial 3 new technologies in revegetation by 2025

3. Lead an innovative sustainable agricultural community

- 3.1 50% of the agricultural community have implemented productive changed practice to become resilient to climate change
- 3.2 25% of agricultural properties have developed carbon-neutral action plans and implemented changed practice to become carbon neutral
- 3.3 75% of the agriculture community have developed approved farm biosecurity plans and have implemented changed practice
- 3.4 BCLN will have established a peer-to-peer mentoring program for 5 key sectors;
 - Organic/regenerative horticulture
 - Master Tree Grower/Multi Story farming
 - Grazing (beef and sheep)
 - Zero Emissions agriculture
 - Mixed Farming
- 3.5 25% of the agricultural community will have developed drought proofing water plans and have become water stewards

4. Capitalise on Carbon

- 4.1 Expand BCLN vehicle offset program to include flights, by 100% by 2025
- 4.2 Become a carbon neutral organisation by 2022
- 4.3 Train 2 staff members in carbon accounting by 2020
- 4.4 Develop an on-farm carbon sequestration and carbon reduction program by 2020
- 4.5 Develop a carbon consultancy prospectus by 2020
- 4.6 Develop carbon offsets programs by 2020

5. Best Practice Governance and Safe, Skilful Operations

- 5.1 Maintain a quality board and management team which provide effective, accountable, and strategic leadership and sound succession planning
- 5.2 Implement Professional development for staff to the minimum of 5% of salary
- 5.3 Maintain effective, nationally compatible systems across all key areas of operation
- 5.4 Zero Harm, live a culture of safety
- 5.5 Develop plan for Network to become progressively less reliant on public funds in support of operational overheads and support self-sufficiency by 2025
- 5.6 Maintain strong cash reserves (>\$500K), high levels of secured work and an ongoing annual surplus (>5%)
- 5.7 Maintain high quality assets, infrastructure, and equipment in priority locations

6. Deliver leading edge experiences, education, and training

- 6.1 Develop and market two new profitable environmental experiential activities per year
- 6.2 Increase by 10%, the number of students reached each year by the Environmental Detectives Program
- 6.3 Develop new environmental detective's activities per annum
- 6.4 Develop an integrated and accredited Landcare Training program for landholders by 2025
- 6.5 Establish a partnership with an Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) accredited centre to deliver accredited Landcare training
- 6.6 Increase landholder/ farmer engagement in education by 50% by 2025
- 6.7 Engage 15% more volunteers in training – both as trainer and trainee
- 6.8 Establish 3 Educational Hubs in Gippsland by 2025

The following Annual Report will be structured following our 6 key strategies.



Best practice governance and safe, skilful operations

Governance and Planning

The BCLN Board has the ultimate responsibility for BCLN projects, funding, and activities. It is assisted in fulfilling its responsibilities by the Network Coordinators and other Network managed staff. Specifically, its role is as follows:

Broad Aims

- Pursue core purpose, mission statement of the Bass Coast Landcare Network.
- Develop clear aims and objectives for the BCLN and provide leadership in their implementation.
- Provide support to all member groups.
- Coordinate the activities of member groups in relation to Network wide projects.

Overall Operations

- Approve the strategic plan for the Network.
- Delegate authority to staff and member groups appropriately.
- Demonstrate Leadership.
- Recommend the auditor's report be approved at the AGM.
- Ensure effective communication between Landcare Groups and other stakeholders.
- Establish ethical standards for the BCLN.

Performance

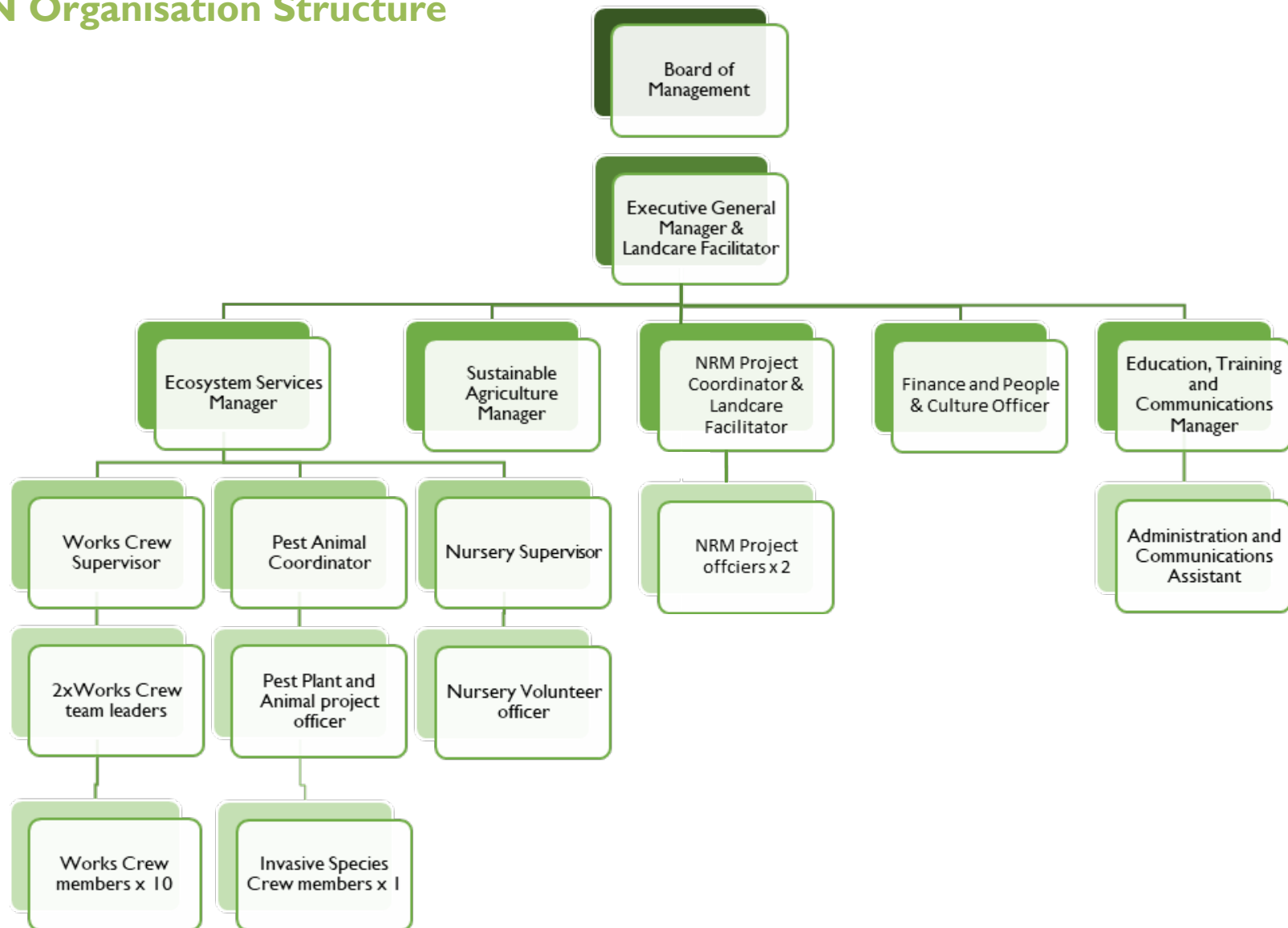
- Ensure the long-term viability of the BCLN.
- Oversee the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Ensure development of project proposals across the Network and seek funding in line with:
 - Strategic directions and resources capabilities
 - Member groups action plans, their needs, and capacities to achieve stated outcomes
 - Ensure proper disbursement of any funds received in line with funding agreements
 - Monitor developments in the Landcare field and the operating environment.

Legal Conformance

- Understand and protect the financial position of the BCLN.
- Require and monitor legal and regulatory compliance including adherence to the conditions of funding.
- Approve annual accounts, annual reports, and other public / sensitive reports.



BCLN Organisation Structure



Chair's Report

Linda Bowden



It has been a wonderful opportunity to help guide the Bass Coast Landcare Network out of the challenges of the Covid19 pandemic and getting back into a level of normality. We have hit the ground running and are well placed to continue moving forward in the Landcare space, with an even more committed and focused direction to support our communities that live in the Bass Coast region. I have been extremely grateful to have the support of the Board members who provide their skills, experience, and insight to ensure we have the capacity to continue to deliver the strategic direction and governance to the staff and team. There is a unique diversity that exists within the BCLN – from rolling hill farms, to coastal revegetation, to islands and their own natural distinction – as the Landcare voice, there is so much we can offer and deliver on to ensure the Bass Coast area is healthy and supportive of the communities that choose to live here.

I would like to acknowledge the great partnerships the BCLN has, and their ongoing commitment to Landcare in this region. In particular, the partnership we have developed with the Bass Coast Shire Council and the Biolinks project, highlights Landcare's ability to meet its objectives in enhanced biodiversity, roadside weed management, and other farming initiatives within the area. The Network acknowledges the relationships with all our partners, both government and corporate, and looks forward to the ongoing opportunities.

The BCLN has a dedicated staff team who continue to deliver outstanding results; they are enthusiastic, innovative and committed to the new and emerging opportunities that lie ahead. A strength of this organisation is in the management team and staff led by our EGM Dave Bateman. It has been a pleasure as Chair to support Dave over the last 12 months – his professionalism and networking skills ensure BCLN is a first point of contact for future projects.

I would like to thank Bill Irving for taking on the role as Secretary and Roger Lee for his outstanding work as Treasurer. I am appreciative of Ric Oldham staying on as Vice Chair and providing continuity as I settled into the new role. All members of the Board and the Sub-committees that support the Board in its governance, should feel proud of the contributions they make. The skill set that exists within our Board is diverse and provides a well-balanced approach to continue to navigate BCLN forward in a professional manner.

For me, Landcare has always been about getting 'trees in the ground'. What an exceptional year the BCLN has had achieving this. The next year is looking just as promising, and the future continues to look exciting. Lastly, but by no means least, I express my gratitude for the volunteers in Landcare who always dig that little bit deeper to contribute in some way – time is always of the essence and all our volunteers, from the paddocks to the Boardroom, always find the time to turn up and contribute. I feel very proud of what has been achieved by the Network over the last 12 months and I look forward to this next year – we are in a strong position to continue to enhance this great region we all choose to live in.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Bowden".

Linda Bowden

Chair Bass Coast Landcare Network

Treasurer's Report

Roger Lee

IT'S ALL ABOUT GROWTH!

The 2021-22 financial year produced another pleasing result for the Network. The Covid turmoil of the previous two years has subsided and only the usual challenges were present.

Income

Total income for the year was \$1.820M which is a healthy increase on the previous year and exceeded budget by 11%. Total annual expenses of \$1.811M also exceeded budget by 14% which produced a breakeven result for the year.

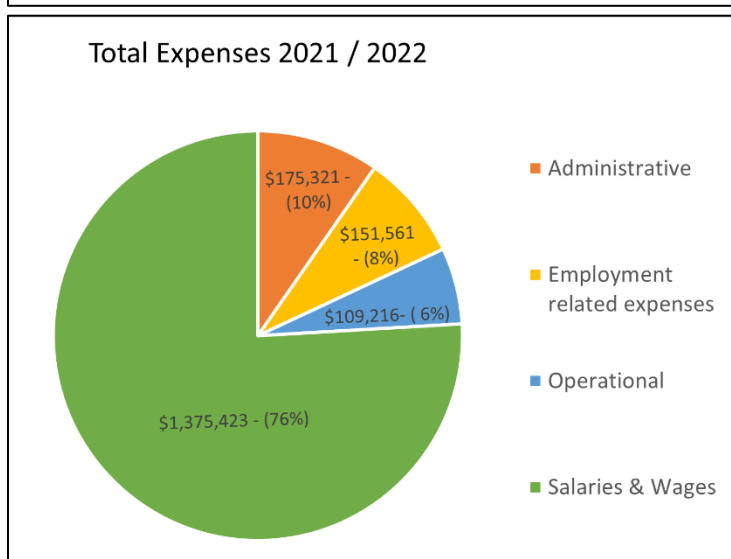
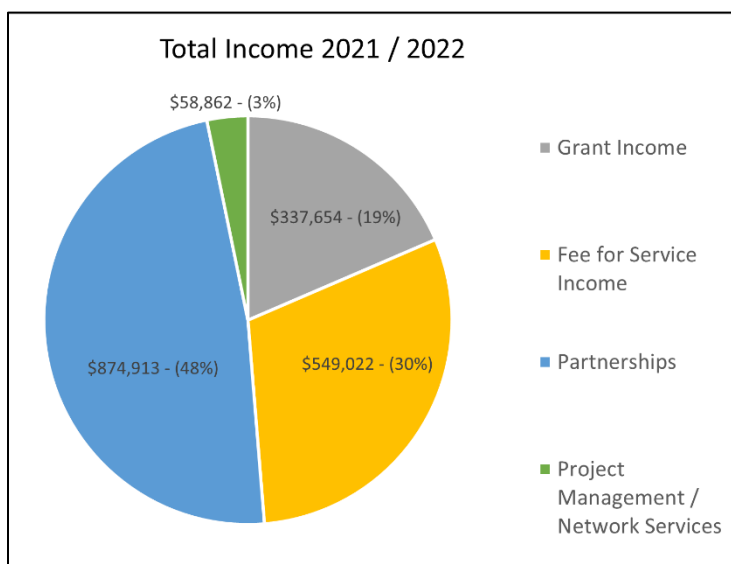
Income generated from Partnerships and Fee for Service Work were substantially above budget whilst Grant Income and Project Management Income were slightly below budget.

During the year the Board and management monitors the performance of BCLN by looking at the following operational areas. The table below gives an indication of the relative size of each area as a percentage of total revenue.

Relative size of each area as a percentage of total revenue

Administration	7.3%
Operations	28.8%
Works Crew	69.5%
Nursery	4.5%
River Garden (cost centre only)	0%

From 2022-23 onwards, the work done by the pest animal control team will be split out of the Works Crew and a new "Invasive Species" operational unit created to better report and monitor the performance of this growth area.



Whilst the Works Crew records by far the largest portion of revenue, the Administration and Operational areas provide crucial support and attracts funding that enables the Works Crew to undertake its billable work.

The Nursery continues to perform well and demonstrates potential for future growth. Accordingly, the Board has approved several proposals for investment in infrastructure to expand the capacity of the nursery.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure was well contained. Most of the overspends reflected increasing use of equipment. As a result, Depreciation, Insurance, Repairs and Maintenance and Asset and Equipment Purchases exceeded budget. Salaries and wages continue to be, by far, the dominating expenditure item (75%). The challenge for the Network is to balance the need for cost containment with the desire to improve staff terms and conditions to maintain staff satisfaction and retention.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet reflects a Network that is in very sound financial position and stands up well to all measures of financial viability. A working capital ratio of 2.1 is considered very healthy. Accounts receivables have been well contained and employee entitlements are well provided for. Again, this year, there has been growth in plant and equipment which reflects the organisation's continued confidence to invest in itself.

Reserves are adequate but not excessive. The Network has a policy to maintain sufficient reserves to cover at least six months operating expenses and staff entitlements. At the current level of business activity, this requires \$1M to be held in reserve for this purpose. Furthermore, the Board believes it is prudent to retain additional reserves to provide for future investment in infrastructure and capacity to ensure ongoing growth.

What's ahead

Many of BCLN's financial challenges stem from the growing pains brought on by rapid expansion. Total annual income has doubled from \$1M in 2016-17 to a forecast \$2M+ in 2022-23. This growth puts pressure on all aspects of managing the business, especially the budgeting process. Senior managers have involved all staff in formulating the budget to ensure widespread understanding and ownership of income targets and the need for efficient allocation and use of limited resources.

The budget for 2022-23 was put together by the Audit and Finance Sub-Committee with much help from the EGM (Dave and Robbie) and the Finance Officer (Cheryl). The budget incorporates a mix of funding sources with different levels of certainty that aims to generate an ambitious total income for 2022-23 of \$2.023M (23% higher than 2021-22 budget) and total expenses of \$1.936M (22% higher than 2021-22 budget). This aims to produce a small surplus of \$0.086M.

Thanks to the team

In my role as Treasurer, I rely heavily on the assistance of Dave (and also Robbie) and Cheryl throughout the year. I thank them for their dedication and professional work. Thank you also to the expert advice and assistance provided by the members of the Audit and Finance team, Don Creed and Jon Hauser.

Executive General Manager Report

David Bateman

Bass Coast Landcare Network has had an exceptional year delivering a broad range of on-ground works, educational activities, sustainable agricultural programs and facilitation of our 10 Landcare groups. This year we planted just over 316,000 plants on properties in our region. This is the largest amount of plants in the ground in our 19 years of operation. Over the past five years, BCLN and our member groups have planted over 1.2 million plants. This has been made possible through our great partnerships and projects with Bass Coast Shire Council, Greening Australia, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. Bass Coast Shire Council has again been a great supporter of BCLN. Our MOU with BCSC has been integral to our success in delivering great results for both organisations. Our BCLN Board, led by our new Chair Linda Bowden, continues to provide great support to our staff team and provide a high level of governance for the organisation. Our Board members, all from various backgrounds, provide excellent advice and guidance to myself and the staff team to ensure we stay true to our core purpose of “Educate-Grow-Feed”.



BCLN Board and Public Fund at the 2021 AGM



BCLN staff team

mandate, RAT tests and managing check-ins and Covid Safe plans for our office, depot and events, which has been both uncomfortable for staff and some of our Landcare members. Hopefully this is all behind us and we can look forward to harnessing maximum volunteer/community effort in years to come with Landcare.

This year we welcome a new Landcare group to BCLN, the Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group. This Group formed organically, because of three passionate environmental leaders in our community (Dave Sutton, Alison Oates and Amaryll Perlesz), who saw an opportunity to advocate for our local Gippsland threatend species and help educate our Landcare community. The group now has over 15 members and were successful in co-writing their first grant application for the Giant Gippsland Earthworm Project.

I am very proud of both our staff team’s performance and the BCLN Board through a difficult time due to the pandemic. BCLN has continued to adapt to the situation that was placed upon us. One of the biggest challenges for myself and the team was implementing the State Government Covid 19 vaccination

Our BCLN Board has been a great support to the staff team and has completed some really important work including; Working with myself and the staff team to guide us through some difficult decisions in regards to the Covid 19 vaccine mandate, Establishing an MOU with the Western Port Biosphere Foundation, Establishing an MOU with Federation University and University of Tasmania in regards to progressing the Climate Adaption Plan developed through the Growing Southern Gippsland Project, completion of the BCLN staff HR review and salary benchmarking project, and establishment of the Executive Officers Sub Committee.



Jack Harriss and Dave Bateman demonstrating how to do a RAT test

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of both Bret Dodd and Daryl Hook who stepped down from the BCLN Board at our AGM in Nov 2021. Bret spent 3 years on the Board all as vice chair and was on both the People and Culture and the Audit and Finance Committees. Bret provided a fantastic amount of support to BCLN in his time on the Board. Daryl Hook who has been on the BCLN Board since its inception 19 years ago contributed a large portion of his life to Landcare. Daryl's passion for Landcare and community made him an incredible person to have volunteering for BCLN. I wish both Daryl and Bret all the best in their retirement from Landcare. I would also like to acknowledge the fantastic effort and enthusiasm of Ric Oldham who stepped down as Chair this year after 4 years in the role. Ric has been a driving force for BCLN, helping out with multiple projects including the Climate Action Plan, the Biolinks project/tender and BCSC MOU development. Ric provided a great level of support to myself and the staff team and has helped BCLN through many tricky situations with a high level of professionalism.



Paul Speirs, Brian Enbom, Don Creed, Daryl Hook and Ken Connor at the Whalebone recently with a Woolamai Pine (Present from the BCLN Board)

Our partnerships and relationships, I believe, are the key to our continued success. I would like to thank all our key partners including Bass Coast Shire Council, Bunurong Land Council, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Westernport Water and Phillip Island Nature Parks for their support. I would also like to acknowledge our corporate partners Liminal Wellbeing, TUROSI, Beveridge Williams and Hills are Alive Group.

I continue to be proud of what our Staff team, BCLN Board and volunteers have achieved and would like to thank everyone that has contributed. We will continue to innovate and strive to do great things for the Bass Coast and the world.

People Culture and Capability Report

Staff Movements

The 21/22 year has been a busy year regarding staff movements.



Geoff Trease

After more than 18 years with BCLN, Geoff Trease decided to move on from BCLN. Geoff is widely regarded as the nicest man in the world and has a great knowledge of our indigenous plants on the Bass Coast and South Gippsland area. Geoff first worked for the Powlett Project Landcare group as a project officer back in the late 1990s, then left BCLN in 2007 to work at the South Gippsland Seedbank. Geoff returned to BCLN in 2011 to work as a Project Officer with our NRM team. Geoff will not be lost to us as he will be continuing to work at the seedbank, and he has promised to come back to help with training of our staff in plant ID etc. A big thankyou to Geoff for imparting so much great knowledge to our team at BCLN and for being such a great person to have around in general. With Geoff moving on this provided an opportunity for two of our younger crew, Luke Phillips and Joel Kilgour to go from part time positions to full time. Luke has taken on the Korumburra Landcare group facilitation as part of his expanded role going into the 2022/23 financial year. Also, both Joel and Luke will be taking on the Melbourne Water Liveable Waterways site visits.



Luke Phillips



Joel Kilgour



Jason Good

Jason Good, our Invasive Species Coordinator has also moved on at June 30, 2021. Jason has done a fantastic job building up the Invasive Species team from one part time position to 3 fully funded employees in the 2022/2023 budget. Jason is not exactly sure what is next, he is planning on travelling and potentially a career change. I would also like to acknowledge the great work Jason has done for BCLN and wish him well with his future endeavours. Jason's role has been filled by Aaron Stephens who was previously the Invasive Species Project Officer and Jack Harriss, formerly second in charge of the Works Crew has taken on the Invasive Species Project Officer role. Our Works Crew continues to provide a great pathway for staff to step up into senior roles at BCLN.

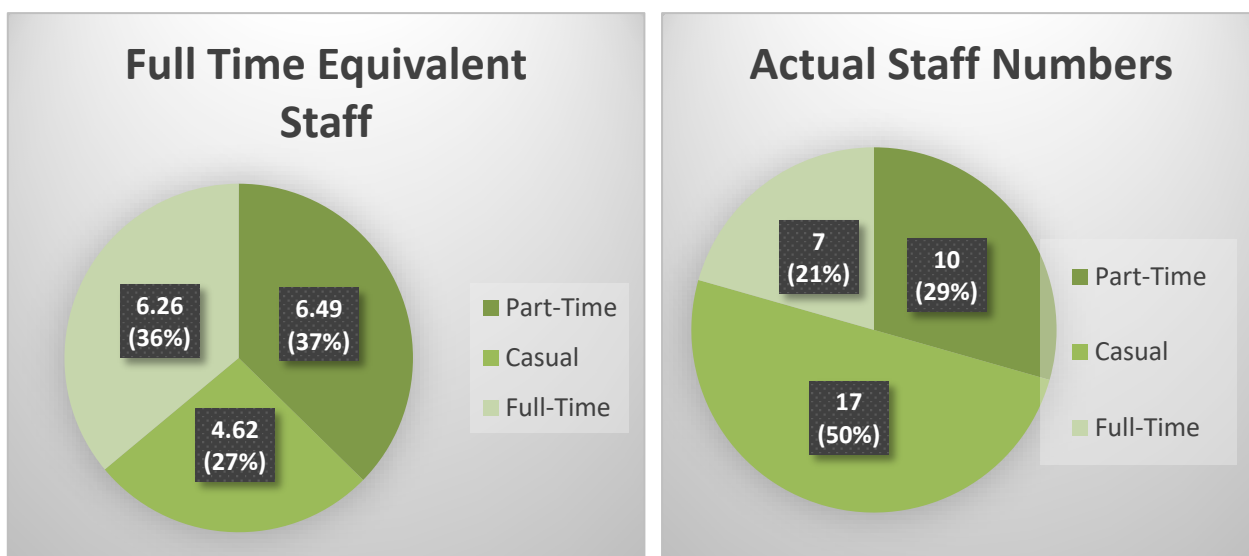


Aaron Stephens



Jack Harriss

Statistics



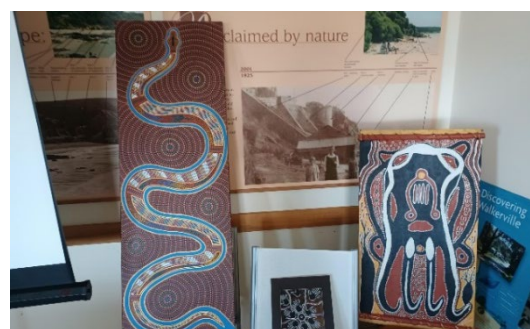
Employee Numbers at 30 June 2022			
	Female	Male	Total
Casual	4	13	17
Full-Time	0	7	7
Part-Time	4	6	10
Total	8	26	34

Staff Team Building Trip

One of the most important aspects of building a great culture and a high-performance team at BCLN I believe, is for our group to get together outside of the work environment and get to know each other better and build relationships within the team. 22 of our staff headed down to Walkerville for a 2-day training and team building trip. We were very lucky to have Cheryl Connelly from Health Guard to lead us through First Aid and CPR training, Mandy Leggett did an amazing job of delivering Cultural competency training, and our staff team worked together to set team goals for each of our work areas, including the Pest Animal team, Works Crew, Sustainable Agriculture, and NRM team. We will all work together to review these goals on a quarterly basis to ensure we are continually improving our operations at BCLN. Aaron Stephens, our Invasive Species Officer, showed the team how he sets his fox traps and how to set up rabbit baiting. I also introduced the team to the idea of developing their own personal trademark, which will hopefully help them with their decision-making throughout not



First Aid training



Art display during cultural competency training

just their work, but also at home. It was great for me personally to get to know some of our newer staff and for our office team to get to know our Works Crew team.



Fox trapping demonstration by Aaron Stephens



Cultural competency training with Mandy Leggett

Training and Development

People, Culture and Capability provides a variety of training and development opportunities aimed at building employee ability to deliver services, meet strategic needs, and align with BCLN mission, strategic plan, and values. BCLN continues to sponsor staff training – short, informal, and nationally recognised vocational training. This continues to enable us to develop better programs and activities.

Training activities this year included;

- Level 2 First Aid Training
- Project Management
- Cultural Competency
- Leadership
- Chemical endorsement
- Pest animal control, 1080
- HSR OHS course
- Natural Capital Accounting
- Chainsaw



BCLN staff completing CPR training

BCLN encourages staff to undertake other outside studies improving their professional and personal skills. Our people are independently undertaking or completing vocational and postgraduate studies, further developing the knowledge base and experience within the organisation. We continue to support in other ways – not just direct financial contribution.

Work Health and Safety Injury Management

We continue to review and improve our work health and safety policies, procedures, and guidelines. This is important to help identify, adopt and develop best practice in health and safety management processes. We have implemented the Take 5 app across all operational activities. This app helps the staff team take 5 minutes to identify hazards and controls on site. These proactive activities reduce social and financial costs of workplace injuries and illnesses and improve the overall performance of the organisation.

We have also taken up WorkSafe's OHS essentials plan, which has involved having a WorkSafe consultant visit our workplace and create a list of priority actions and policy review.

PCC Committee report

Last years' AGM saw a changing of the guard, notably long-term members Bret Dodd and Daryl Hook were farewelled, both also retiring from the Board. Also, Lisa Wangman stepped down to even the balance of staff representation.

This year's members are Chair, Ken Connor (Anderson Inlet), Jeannie Coffey and Secretary, Helen Norman (Bass Valley) representing the Board, and Dave Bateman, Robbie Gray and Mark Rowe representing the staff.

Topics covered over the past year include;

- Wage related adjustments involving comparisons with similar organisations.
- Introduction of parental leave
- Time in lieu proposal
- Amendments to policy statements
- Cost of living increase proposal
- Assisting with staff selection interviews
- EGMs annual review, format, and position description

Current Actions

Prioritising work on a staff retention policy proposal; and reviewing the PCC terms of reference. Additionally, when time permits, we have been asked to review each Board Policy. Meetings are monthly, scheduled two weeks prior to Board meetings to allow advance communication with the Audit and Finance committee.

Conclusion

We have always believed that our employees are the most important resource for creating organisational value. By increasing our investment and commitment in human resource development and bolstering the strengths of individuals, we will optimise the power and value of our people and the organisation itself. BCLN strives to enhance capabilities, building strong, competitive foundations, bringing value to all our partners, volunteers, and other stakeholders. Special thanks go to all our volunteers, dedicated staff, and everyone else who has assisted the work of the People Culture and Capability Committee throughout the year.



Child Safety Statement

Board of Management

Bass Coast Landcare Network is committed to the safety of children and young people who participate in our programs. BCLN has developed a thorough and clear policy that both defines this commitment and the steps to be taken to ensure compliance.

BCLN will demonstrate its commitment to applying the seven standards and three principles of Child Safety Standards and outlines by having;

- a clear written commitment by the BCLN Board of Management to child safety
- a communicated policy of zero tolerance for child abuse
- actively working to listen to and empower children
- having system to protect children from abuse and takes allegations and concerns seriously
- actively promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children and those of a culturally and / or linguistically diverse background or with a disability.
- actively ensuring all persons involved with BCLN have been trained in and subscribe to the BCLN child protection and safety policy and code of conduct.



Public Fund

Peter Mulherin - Chairperson for the Trustees of the BCLN Public Fund
Trustees - Jon Hauser, Susan Pryde, Peter Nuttman, Warren Thompson and Lew Potter

The BCLN might have had a Covid quiet 20/21 but this year; 21/22 we have been on the run! The trustees are looking forward to an even more engaging year ahead with a focus on conserving biodiversity and community assets. The demand and the need are growing along with projects and the generous donations we depend upon.

This year's contributions included a number of generous and recurring contributions together with a significant corporate donation from SJD Homes. This combined generosity sees our work appreciated and enables growth in projects and impact. Thank you.

An exciting new project is the Outtrim Cemetery Nature Conservation Reserve. Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group need to be recognised for the well developed and coherent proposal put forward. This makes our role easier, saves time and helps bring quality projects to funding sources. Bravo.

During the 2021/22 financial year we have consolidated our position in a number of areas with a view to ramp up activities during the next calendar year. Activities include:



- Developed an in-house process for the approval of projects and allocation of funds.
- Updated the Public Fund website and content, new projects, guidelines, and progress
- Updated our information and fundraising brochure. Grab one and share it!
- Co-funded with BCLN a position to focus on building our profile and fund raising
- Reviewed the Bass Coast ARC implementation plan for current status
- Gained insight and advice from experts in philanthropy and community action
- Purchased membership to Philanthropy Australia

We continue to look for local and urban collaborations with universities, business and community groups. This will bring more engagement and momentum to our mission together with resources and reach. The trustees are looking forward to a more engaging year ahead and one where we can hope to attract funds from the corporate sector, philanthropic, organisations, bequests, grants and donations.

We thank those who have contributed to date and encourage a discussion from anyone interested in exploring options to engage.

The Public Fund email address is publicfund@basscoastlandcare.org.au

Peter Mulherin

Chairperson for the Trustees of the BCLN Public Fund.

BCLN Statistics 2021-2022

We have achieved:

- 14,005 volunteer hours involved in Landcare activities
- 48 x 10-year Management Agreements established for ongoing management of revegetation and remnant protection projects
- 316,750 Indigenous plants established
- 120.33 hectares of land revegetated through Hiko plantings and Direct seeding
- 4,857 metres of fencing
- 43.55 hectares of Remnant vegetation protected
- 510.5 hectares of Remnant vegetation enhanced through weed control
- 322 kilometres of roadside weed control
- 1,703 hectares of rabbit control works
- 17,513 hectares of fox control
- 2 sustainable agriculture demonstration sites

Events summary:

- 17 Community/Landcare Group Planting days
- 15 Farmer discussion group sessions
- 48 Nursery Group Volunteer sessions
- 48 River Garden Volunteer & Training sessions (including Schools)
- 18 School activity sessions (excluding River Garden Schools)
- 66 Field Day, Webinars, Training or Workshop event sessions (Including Sustainability Festival events)



Participants at a Regenerative Grazing Management Farm Discussion Group walk with Graeme Hand at Ric and Mez Oldham's

Strong communities engaged and connected through Landcare

Group President Reports

Powlett Project – Paul Speirs

Our core group of committee members met 3 times to review projects. We welcomed our new project officers Joel Kilgour and Luke Phillips, who previously worked on our Works Crew.

One of the highlights of the year was the Kugerungmome project field day, where Powlett members and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and Bass Coast Shire Council had a tour of the catchment to look at some of the large-scale projects that are being funded through the Kugerungmome project. It was great to have so many partner organisations involved in the day.

The 2,000 BCLN Board plants were much appreciated by our members. Brendan Phyland housed them at his property at Krowera, a big thank you to Brendan for managing plant dispersal. Another highlight of the year was the Bass Coast Shire Council staff and Councillor tour which toured both my property and Ric Oldham's.

There were also several student tours and Bunurong Land Council staff also came out for a tour of the Archies Creek wildlife corridor.

In the Powlett Project Landcare group area, 51,560 plants were planted, and 7,010 metres of stock proof fence was established.



Paul Speirs with Bunurong Land Council NRM team and BCLN staff at Paul's Place.

Anderson Inlet – Ken Connor

Another year affected by restrictions on meetings, however a successful year for membership with a total of ten new members joining the group, mostly from the Inverloch area, an indication that people moving to our coastal townships are keen to engage with locals to help protect the environment.

Despite the restrictions placed on us by Covid, we did manage two very successful outdoor events/planting days.

One project related to the extension of the cycle/walking path between Inverloch and Wonthaggi, and a proposal to use existing (heavily vegetated) road easements for that purpose. Our group member most affected by this proposal offered up an alternative, a swap of their land for the road easement, which, after considerable negotiation, was accepted by Council. A highly successful outcome for all, primarily for the environment, with grazing pastureland being swapped for mature bush on the existing easements.

The other was a planting day at the Holt property in Inverloch. A follow up on earlier work, it was good to see how effective previous plantings were in holding back the coastal erosion that threatens much of the coastal land along Anderson Inlet. Another feature of note on this project, was the effectiveness of prior weed control work undertaken by the Works Crew to eradicate the kikuyu.

Finally, it is important to note the retirement of Daryl Hook from the position of President, and to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that Daryl has made to our group over the last 20 years. A true “Landcarer” with a passion for the environment without equal. Fortunately, Daryl is staying on with the group and I’m sure he will continue to make a valuable contribution.

Taking his place is Ken Connor, and it is similarly important to acknowledge and thank Ken for taking on this role.

In the Anderson Inlet Landcare group area, 18,000 plants were planted, and 4,320 metres of stock proof fence was established.



Bass Valley – Lew Potter

Bass Valley Landcare Group has continued to thrive throughout the past year as the dust settles after the pandemic. Our group is growing in number and enthusiasm, more about that later.

Revegetation Projects It is noticeable along the Bass Valley that there have been a number of property ownership transfers and significantly the new owners seem to be bringing a breath of fresh air to the Valley as they express interest in revegetation projects.

Membership and Staff Support

Our initiative in offering a tray of 40 plants to each member continues to create interest. Those plants were snapped up with gusto. There has been new interest in the Tenby Point region where Jeannie Coffee has been spreading the word. A community planting at Coronet Bay was well attended recently.

Our newly appointed treasurer, Rob Parsons, has been stirring the pot in encouraging existing and new members to renew subscriptions.



Peter Norman, Lew Potter, Warren Thompson and Tony and Jacinta VanSteklenberg at the 3 Creeks and Bass Valley Social get together

Future Direction

Promoting our Brand to existing landholders remains our main challenge and will be our focus. Cultural awareness is gaining momentum as a future benefit.

I am sure we all look forward to getting out there with Hico's and Hamiltons in hand in the near future to catch up where we left off before the pandemic intrusion.

Dave Bateman has continued to be our driving force. Secretary Mez Oldham has very capably kept us abreast of all activities. Rob Parsons is on the ball as treasurer. Thanks to our committee and members alike for your efforts. I hope we can continue to do well next year. Thanks to all for your efforts and involvement.

In the Bass Valley Landcare group area, 77,510 plants were planted, and 8,638 metres of stock proof fence was established.

French Island – Terry Martin

French Island Landcare Group had a fairly low-key year as we slowly recover from the pandemic. A new president and treasurer as well as committee members, some of whom have returned from previous years.

We had our annual Friends of French Island planting day which we centred on redeveloping the south coast. We have been successful in obtaining two Coastcare grants for this project.

We have also been fortunate enough to obtain a grant from the Biosphere for our new greenhouse and to purchase a further 70 cameras for the feral cat eradication program.

A new revised digital welcome pack is coming out shortly in conjunction with French Island Community Association.

Judith Metcher retired as business manager of the Landcare nursery, and we welcome Amilly Dale as the new business manager. The migration of the nursery from Long Point to the Community Garden area continues, with weather holding up the project.

The cat eradication program is still running, but at this time, only camera monitoring.

In the French Island Landcare group area, 3,700 plants were planted, and 1,200 metres of stock-proof fence was established.



June planting site



Volunteers planting and guarding



Campsite planting day

Kongwak Hills – Grace Couchman

The Kongwak Hills Landcare Group (KHLG) continues to engage the Kongwak community in promoting both Landcare and biodiversity in farms, parklands, backyards and waterways. This is our 10th year of operation, and we will be looking forward to celebrating that fact on November 12th, eating sausages with a drink in hand, and warmly looking through some photos from the last 10 years.

This year has found us returning to plantings and also welcoming a number of new families to the district. Biolink projects have also allowed our group to focus on waterways in the Bass Coast area and support the diversity of wildlife travelling through Kongwak properties.

In 2021 our group was successful in gaining a Victorian State Government Community Volunteer Action grant for strengthening citizen science. A total of 120 nesting boxes were constructed and mounted across 13 properties. The Wonthaggi Men's Shed produced 6 different types of boxes based on designs published in 2013 by the Maffra and District Landcare Network and the East Gippsland Landcare Network. Some modifications were made based on modern evidence with respect to restricting pest species and reducing heat stress over summer. We also reduced the heights to a manageable level for both installation and monitoring. We were very grateful for the interest and guidance of Dallas Wyatt and the good-natured helpfulness of the Bass Coast Tree Care team (Max, Jack, Bailey and Jacob). There was helpful crossover with the South Gippsland Conservation Group who held instructional sessions on nest box design and maintenance at just the right time. This was attended by members of the KHLG and the Wonthaggi Men's Shed.



We have enjoyed some great educational experiences - a farm walk with Dave and Allison in Arawata considering threatened species and farmland regeneration, a Pioneer Reserve fauna survey with Dallas, and a presentation of the work five Kongwak Hills locals have put into regenerating their properties and the Pioneer Reserve over the last 10 years.

Special thanks to Susan Pryde, our Treasurer, Sue Mooney, our secretary, Susan Banks, our Honorary Social Secretary, and Bill Irving, our Board representative. We have also appreciated working with Joel Kilgour, our new KHLG rep and have appreciated his flexible and knowledgeable input.

In the Kongwak Hills Landcare group area, 42,820 plants were planted, and 4,585 metres of stock proof fence was established.



Korumburra – Melynda Dawson

Another big 12 months for Korumburra Landcare. Lockdowns then “normal life” resumes into full swing planting mode. In August 2021, Chris and Michelle Miller had about 1,000 plants to put in the ground, part of 13,000 plants undertaken by Greening Australia. It was great to have a get together between lockdowns with a relaxed atmosphere. In September 2021 new member Jim Ahon hosted a planting, he only had the property for about 18 months, a great morning with smiles and laughter. Jim was blown away with how quick and efficient we were.

Our AGM in November was a low-key morning tea at Outtrim Reserve, due to not knowing if Covid restrictions would change again. We had 16 people attending, even getting a few new members from the day! We were treated to Dallas Wyatt, Birdlife Australia member and bird expert giving us a walk and talk around the reserve, looking and listening for birds. Overall, there were about 25 species of birds heard or spotted.

In May 2022 we had a walk and talk on Libby and Martin Haynes property, “Mugs gully”, telling of success and failures over the past 40 years of revegetation. We heard 2 Giant Earthworms. Two community plantings in June 2022, with us donating 2,000 plants and helping plant out steep embankments at Korumburra Secondary College with the VCAL students, and Woodford Place in town with 1,400 plants donated by Plantmark Wholesale Nursery, all started by a conversation from one of our members.



A big thank you to Geoff Trease, for his hard work and time over the past few years being our facilitator, your knowledge is invaluable, and welcome Luke Phillips into the role.

Lastly thanks to the rest of the executive committee, we have had our challenges, but managed to come through as a group, succeeding with more members joining and great planting days.

Be sure to visit our Facebook page which is regularly updated
<https://www.facebook.com/KorumburraLandcare>

Committee 2022:-

President: Melynda Dawson

Vice President: Jim Ahon

Secretary: Brian Griffin stepping up, taking over from Paul Calvert, thanks Paul for the last few years

Treasurer: Don Creed

In the Korumburra Landcare group area, 34,860 plants were planted, and 4,370 metres of stock proof fence was established.



Phillip Island – David Rooks

Phillip Island Landcare Group had another successful year in terms of reveg works and other projects, volunteer support, and increasing membership. Our website continues to help support our group including two new projects - Home Garden visits and School visits for VCE students.

However, the news is not all rosy and I wanted to highlight the issue of Phillip Island's plant biodiversity. Despite our best efforts its possible vegetation levels on the Island are diminishing. As we revegetate in one area, we look over our shoulder to see the damage animals are doing to the flora next to us.

Our Island suffers seriously low rates of natural regrowth. Often, we don't see the damage as new growth is eaten before it's established. Where the damage has been seen, is the story told by local farmers who have noticed how thick remnant vegetation has been eaten away waist height down (from wallabies). Then the wind gets into the area and blows over much of the remaining vegetation. It's a sad situation.

For revegetation works or any natural regrowth to be successful on the Island it requires rabbit-proof guards and wallaby-proof fencing. The guards also reduce the chance of Purple Hens pulling out fragile tube stock, a habit they've taken to. Possums are a major issue who climb up and into any open guard and eat their meal. They also damage established vegetation. Finally, farmer's pasture is impacted by the high numbers of Cape Barren Geese. Through our recent economic climate, the costs to erect wallaby proof fencing has increased leaving this activity unsustainable for some farmers.

To support the situation, we have the DELWP's Phillip Island Wildlife Plan that aims to better manage wildlife populations to sustainable levels. We also have a three-year program aiming to reduce our rabbit population being managed by the Bass Coast Landcare Network. Next year we've applied for a grant to run trials of 'conservation sanctuaries' to measure the impact of the animals on our plant biodiversity. The rabbit proof fence at Sunderland Bay / Surf Beach is another such demonstration site.

As a group, we must think and act differently on how we support our plant biodiversity in the hope we can reverse the current situation.

In the Phillip Island Landcare group area, 20,900 plants were planted, and 2,880 metres of stock proof fence was established.



A celebration!



Listening to Kym's vision for her property

Three Creeks – Ray Kirk

There is no doubt that the last couple of years has been challenging on a number of fronts. Lockdown was announced right in the middle of one of our plantings and we just managed to finish and grab a very quick lunch before the 'iron curtain fell'.

We are very fortunate to live on the Bass Coast and to be able to access wide open spaces in such a lovely area. Seeing our revegetation sites flourish helps to regain a sense of balance.

Several changes to our committee occurred at the AGM and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of retiring members and thank them and the brave souls that took their places. Our committee and ordinary members are very active in other parts of the Landcare community: BCLN board, Powlett Project, Nursery, Public Fund, River Garden, Dung Beetle Monitoring etc. Thank you for the great work that you do.



A beautiful day for a planting!

We managed two social events in the year. The first, jointly with the Bass Valley group, was an evening of music and food at the Gurdies Winery. The second was an informal get together at Ann and Gavan's following a walk around the local disused quarry with Diana Whittington to discuss weed management and possible revegetation.

Over 65,000 plants went into the ground in our area. Due to restrictions, our 3 Creeks members and friends planted 16,500 and the rest were planted by the fantastic efforts of the BCLN Works Crew and local school children.

In the Three Creeks Landcare group area, 65,100 plants were planted, and 7,874 metres of stock proof fence was established.



Wonthaggi Urban Landcare Group – Tina Mayling

Group activities are getting back to normal after a disrupted couple of years. The easing of Covid restrictions has seen committed volunteers working on all their regular parks and reserves – Wonthaggi Wetlands, Shane’s Bush, Tank Hill, White Road reserve, and East Rail Trail. Activities have mainly focussed on woody weeding small to medium shrubs, and directing contractors to tackle larger woody weeds as well as spraying.

The combination of volunteer and contractor effort has seen substantial gains made in the fight against weeds. There was also a great effort on Clean Up Australia Day by dedicated volunteers, collecting seven bags of rubbish from Wonthaggi bushland.

Assistance from Bass Coast Shire Council and Parks Victoria has been greatly appreciated, contributing to contractor costs, providing material, equipment and funding for pamphlets (Shire grant).



A massive effort for Clean Up Australia Day



Wonthaggi Urban Landcare Group members



Ian deep in the bush

Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group – Allison Oates

GTSAG formed in September 2021 aiming to enhance biodiversity and habitat for koalas and threatened species across Bass Coast & South Gippsland.

Our first walk and talk for GTSAG members and local Landcare groups, held in April 2022, highlighted the importance of biodiversity in the Outtrim Cemetery Conservation Reserve, including the critically endangered stand of Bog Gum (*Eucalyptus kitsoniana*).

Giant Gippsland Earthworm Project

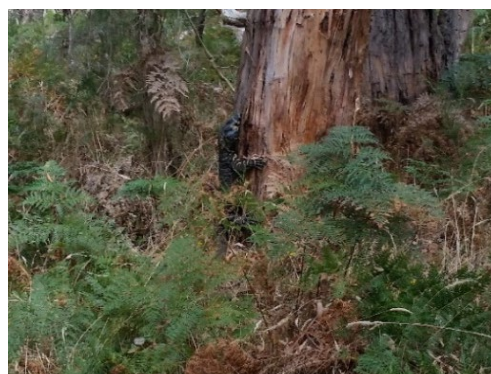
GTSAG, in partnership with Bass Coast Landcare Network, South Gippsland Landcare Network, Trust for Nature and GLaWAC (Gippsland Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation) was awarded a \$250,000 Federal grant to protect and enhance the habitat of the critically endangered Giant Gippsland Earthworm (GGE). A number of permanently protected GGE colonies will be established. An expert GGE invertebrate ecologist is identifying and locating GGE populations and carrying out risk assessments of current land use. Risk mitigation will include: weed control, fencing, and revegetation. An experienced botanist will establish permanent vegetation monitoring plots on historical revegetation/remnant/pasture sites. Results will inform Guidelines for native revegetation of GGE habitat.

Wonthaggi – Inverloch Biolinks

GTSAG is assisting Bass Coast Landcare Network in using wildlife cameras and acoustic monitoring to search for threatened species on a property near Inverloch. This property will be impacted by construction of the Bass Coast Shire's proposed inland cycling/walking track through unused road reserves — a significant Biolink between Wonthaggi and Inverloch. We were lucky enough to photograph a threatened Lace Monitor, sightings of which are rare in this area. Data from the acoustic equipment have been sent to the Arthur Rylah Institute for analysis of frog calls — hoping to detect the Growling Grass Frog at a large wetland on the property.

Biolinks

GTSAG will continue to be actively involved in developing biolinks, especially east-west biolinks, and working to increase vegetation extent, resilience and biodiversity to mitigate climate change impacts on the environment that is vital to us all.



Partnerships

Bass Coast Shire Council

Bass Coast Landcare Network and the Bass Coast Shire Council have enjoyed a strong partnership since 1994. This has included the Bass Coast Shire Council providing significant financial and in-kind support for the Bass Coast Landcare Network. Bass Coast Landcare Network and Bass Coast Shire Council aim to encourage sustainable land use and promote the conservation of biodiversity across the region. Both organisations support the adoption of environmental best management practices to reverse land and water quality decline through community action, knowledge, and skills.

Partnership Highlights

Highlights for the year include delivery of the Biolinks Tender, which has been the key funding to enable BCLN to deliver our biggest ever year of planting with over 316,000 plants in the ground. The project has enabled BCLN to leverage funding from both West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and Greening Australia to extend the outcomes of the Tender.

Another great highlight of the year was the BCSC councillor and Senior staff tour. The Councillors and Staff team spent a full day out with our BCLN Staff and Landcare Members touring some of our best Landcare project sites. The day was a great opportunity to display the multiple benefits of the partnership.

The relationship with Bass Coast Shire continues to grow and prosper through working towards our shared goals.

Partnership Outputs

The annual deliverables of this partnership include:

- Executive support to the BCLN Board and facilitation of 10 Landcare Groups to ensure alignment of Landcare Strategic Direction
- Delivery partner in the Growing Southern Gippsland Project.
- Delivery of the Biolinks Program, which has provided the core support for the majority of the 316,000 plants in the ground this year.
- Delivery of the 'Building the Bass Coast Biolinks BRP project', working on the 10 best pieces of remnant vegetation throughout the Shire.
- Linkages with the Landcare Community to communicate and deliver on Council Initiatives, i.e., Rural Land Use Strategy
- Coordination of partnership programs and funding applications
- Monitoring program for the Biolinks projects
- Delivery of the Bass Coast integrated pest plant and animal program including approximately 100 customer requests
- Delivery of the DELWP roadside pest plant and animal program, including 7.6km of rabbit fence checks and repair on Phillip Island. Along with BCSC Rural Roadside weed program, which BCLN also delivered, both programs covered both sides of 322km of roads.



BCSC team planting at Ric and Mez Oldham's

Westernport Water

With the requirement to cut budgets, Westernport Water has reduced the amount of funding allocated to their Operational Plan for bushlands on Westernport Water properties. This cut was mostly in weed control, with pest animal control the new focus. Working around lingering Covid restrictions, the Works Crew managed to spray weeds at Candowie Reservoir. Foxes were targeted both at Candowie and King Road properties to reduce predation during wader bird season, with 8 foxes removed during the wading bird breeding season.

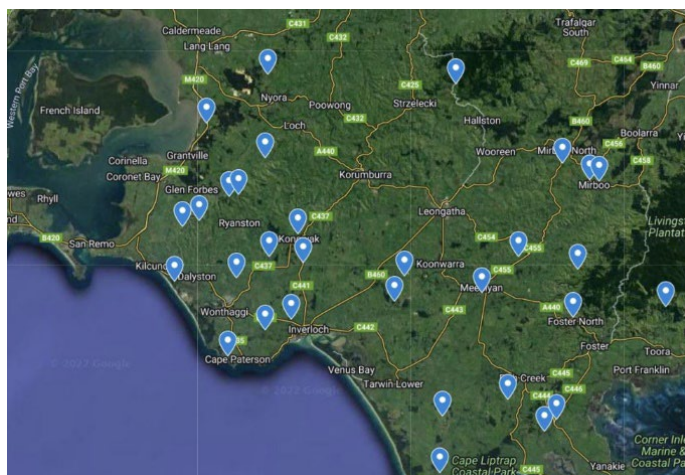


Candowie Reservoir trap sites April 2022.

South Gippsland Landcare Network

BCLN has enjoyed a growing partnership with South Gippsland Landcare Network over the last few years. A one-year extension was granted to their BRP project to protect threatened species, and BCLN delivered the fox baiting component over 16,000ha. As this work was coming to an end, a joint application was submitted for a federal government threatened species grant to keep fox control going, and expand it into Bass Coast. This is turning out to be a great partnership

program with other organisations such as WGCMA and Parks Victoria all working to reduce fox predation from the penguins to the Prom.



Dung beetle monitoring locations

Southern Gippsland was lucky to receive a second federal government threatened species grant, for the protection of the Giant Gippsland Earthworm. BCLN and SGLN are working together on this, along with a range of other partners. Finally, both networks are working together on a range of regenerative agriculture projects, including dung beetle monitoring and distribution.

Parks Victoria

Working with Foster (incl the Prom.), Wonthaggi and San Remo offices, there are some great projects coming out of our growing partnership with Parks Victoria. These include weed control along the eastern shoreline of Western Port, and fox control at various locations from Adams Creek to Bass River mouth, Wonthaggi Heathlands, and Venus Bay to Tidal River.

Corporate Partnerships

Beveridge Williams

BCLN was very fortunate to be sponsored by Beveridge Williams as a Bronze sponsor for the third year in a row. Peter Toole, long time Landcare member was the key driver to get Beveridge Williams signed up to sponsor BCLN. As a result of the sponsorship the Beveridge Williams team contributed to a large scale Biolinks project at Rob Stewarts property, resulting in 3,000 plants in the ground along a section of Archies Creek. 12 Beveridge Williams staff came out to lend a hand, working alongside our BCLN Works Crew to put 3,000 plants in the ground in a 3-hour session on the creek line/gully. BCLN would like to thank Peter for fostering the partnership with his team.



Beveridge Williams team with BCLN Works crew planting

Hills are Alive Group

We are very happy to have Hills are Alive Group back on board as a sponsor after a year off due to the impacts of Covid 19 on the live music industry. Aidan McLaren and his brother Rhett have been a great support to BCLN organising one of our biggest ever youth plantings and party back in 2019. This year we were limited due to Covid 19 restrictions to a smaller planting, which saw 4,000 plants go in with help from the Hills are Alive family at their uncle Neville Chapman's farm. It's great working with this group of passionate young leaders within our community.



Hills are Alive family at Neville Chapmans

Arborists For Forests (AFF) Initiative

Our Arborists For Forests Initiative is a partnership project with local arborist companies who wish to give back to the local environment. For every tree removed by our partnered companies (Bass Coast Tree Care, South Gippsland Tree Care and Arborzone Total Tree Care), 2-10 indigenous plants are planted by BCLN. The Initiative has grown from one to three companies in the past year. In 2021, we planted 200 plants through the Initiative and in 2022, this grew to 2,500. We are confident that our third year of the Initiative will be even greater, and we aim to continue signing up local arborists who will now be able to see some of the forests that have already been created in recent years.

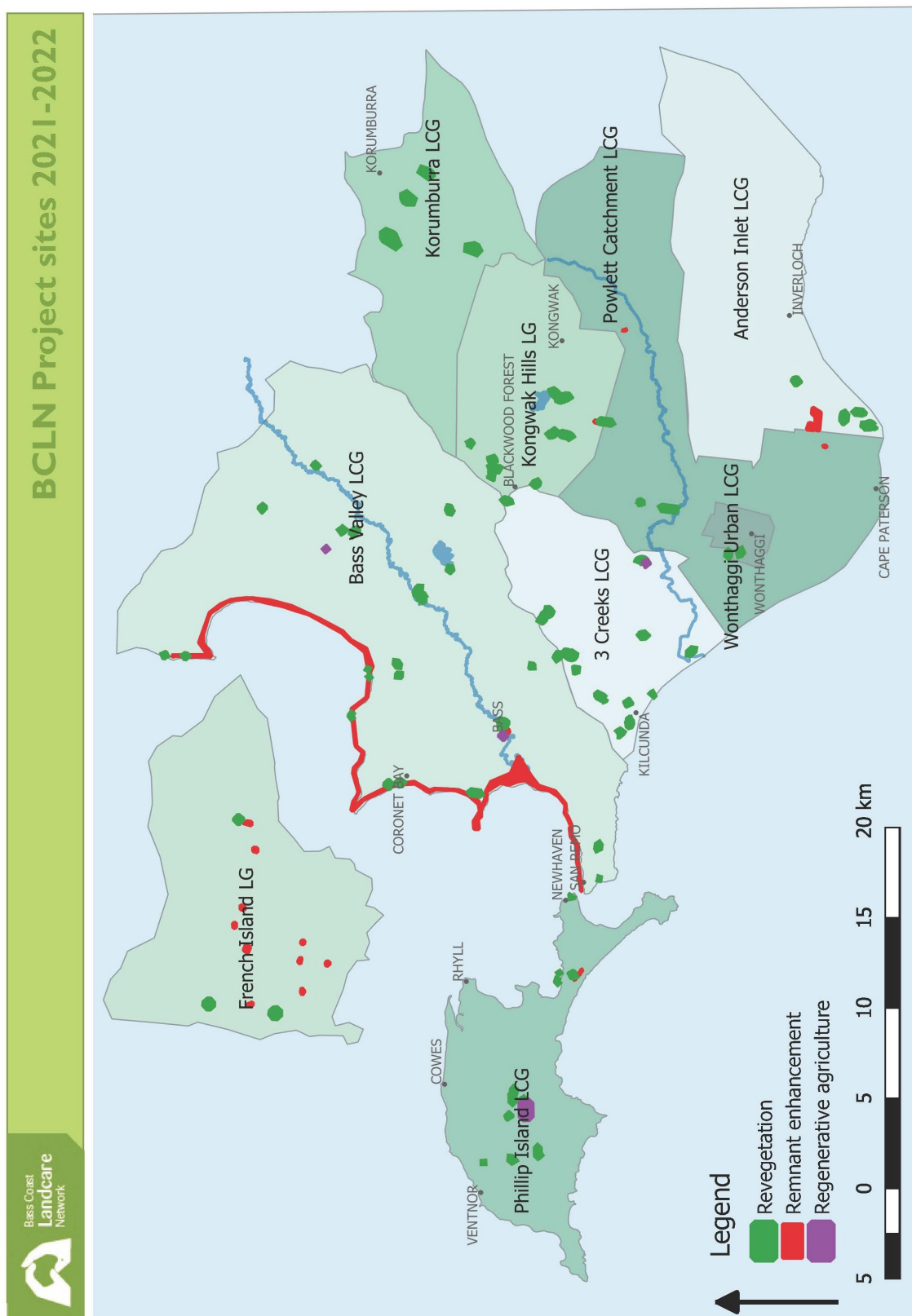


Bass Coast Tree Care getting involved with planting some of the trees that they funded through the AFF in its first year

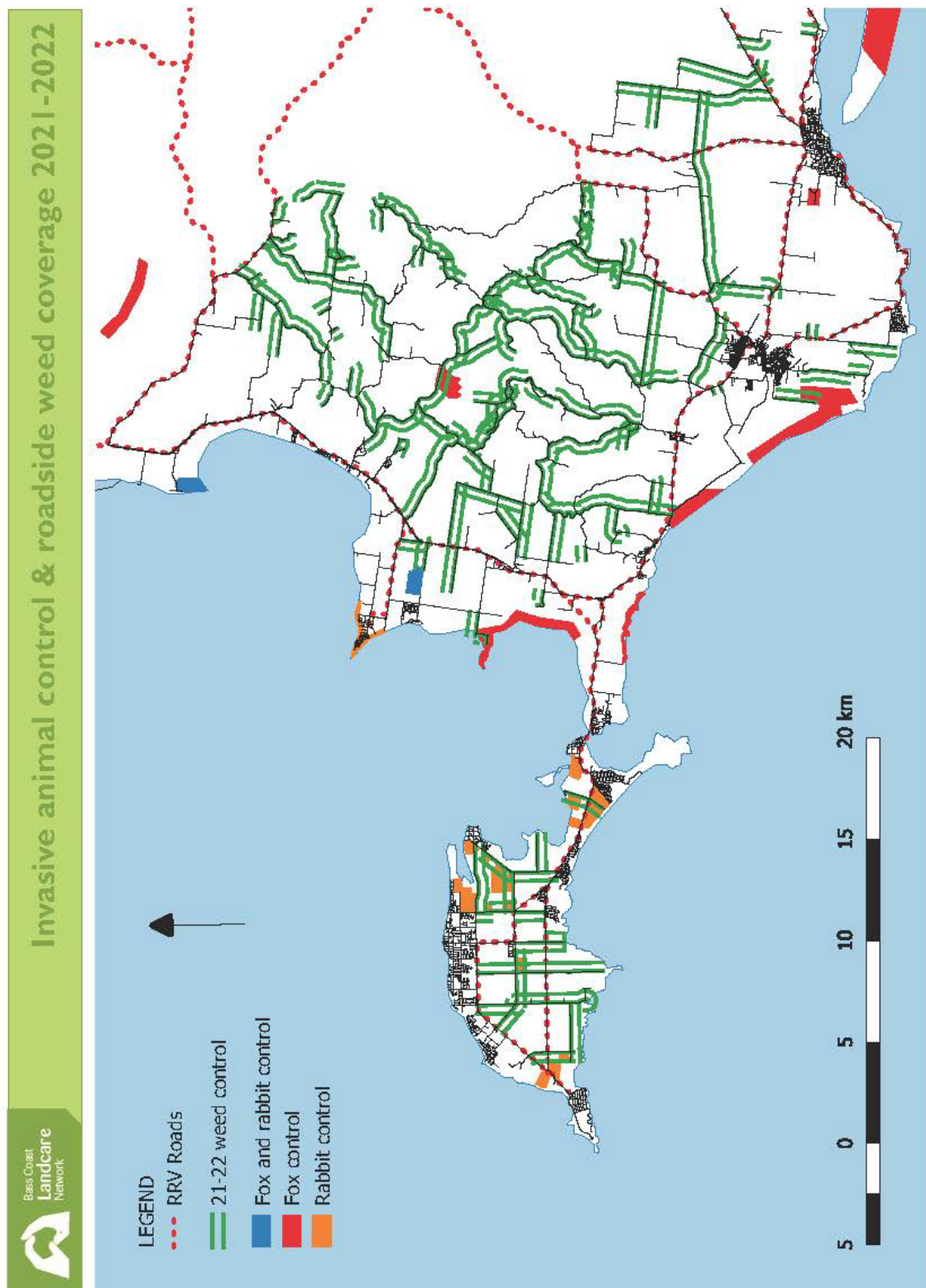
Grow and protect a connected biodiverse landscape

Maps

Revegetation, Remnant, and Horticulture Works



Invasive Animal Control and Roadside Spraying Projects



Portfolio / Program Reports

Natural Resource Management Portfolio

Jye Andersen - NRM Project Coordinator & Landcare Facilitator

Geoff Trease, Joel Kilgour, Luke Phillips – Project Officers

The Natural Resource Management portfolio comprises primarily of our tree planting activities, along with associated weed control, remnant protection and stock-exclusion fencing of project sites. The portfolio continues to grow each year, with support from key projects and organisations, including the Bass Coast Shire Council's 'Biolinks' Program, Greening Australia, 'Reel Big Fish' mangrove restoration project and our Kugerungmome (Powlett River) Partnerships Project with West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and other key partners.

Our biggest year of revegetation on record has been achieved, reaching 316,750 plants. Our team grew from 1-2 people in previous years up to 4 this year, due to successful grant-writing and project delivery in the preceding years. This has allowed us to build capacity to engage with an increased quantity of landholders and in-turn has set us up for more successful years ahead.

Over the past year, projects have been diversified to improve planting practices by including multiple EVC's (Ecological Vegetation Classes) within project sites, factoring in site-specific attributes (E.g., ephemeral wetland areas or riparian planting zones) and balancing breakdown of growth forms to ensure viable mid and understory establishment.

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 limitations, our community and school engagement was low this year, however much greater than 2020-21. Once again, the Works Crew played a crucial role in delivering a large proportion of the revegetation activity. The 2022 planting season has resumed as per normal, and we expect to report another huge achievement next year.



NRM team members Jye, Joel K and Geoff, and Sustainable Agriculture Team Leader Joel G conducting field work for the 'Natural Capital Accounting' Program

Biolinks

In 2021, we delivered the first year of our 3-year Biolinks tender with a record budget of \$350,000 for the year. Our planting target was set at 115,150 plants and even with minimal support from community and school groups due to limitations from Covid restrictions, we delivered 142,000 plants for the year. Our largest planting site for the year was in the Woolamai hills on a tributary of Bridge Creek, where we planted 11,000 plants with the support of 180 Wonthaggi Secondary College students. In 2022, we have already exceeded our target of 82,910 plants for the project, and we are on track to deliver well over 200,000 plants.



Wonthaggi Secondary students completed a planting of 11,000 plants along Bridge Creek in 2021 as part of our Biolinks Project

Reel Big Fish

Our mangrove restoration program continued in this Summer's planting season through funding from Melbourne Water, as part of the Australian Government's Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program. We delivered over 5,000 mangroves across a range of sites from Phillip Island to Queensferry and Tenby Point. Involvement from Bass Valley Landcare Group, Tenby Point community and Bass Valley Primary School played an important role in delivery. Unfortunately, we were still impacted by Covid restrictions throughout the season, and we are looking forward to furthering opportunities for community and school participation in our final year of the project in 2022/23. Third quarter monitoring in 2022 indicates a strong survival rate of up to 77% at some sites and an average of 35% overall. Each year these results improve, as we further our knowledge of timing, methodologies and seasonality.



Bass Valley Primary students out planting mangroves at Queensferry

Greening Australia

In 2021, we delivered our first large project with Greening Australia funding, planting over 65,000 plants across 9 sites, primarily in the upper Powlett catchment areas of Kongwak Hills and Korumburra. Greening Australia funding has made up the core of on-ground work for the Works Crew throughout the winter months, responsible for controlling weeds, spot spraying and planting for the project. A key highlight for the year was a planting of 10,000 Damp Forest EVC plants at Wolfgang Kessler's property in Bena. After approximately one year, the survival rate is close to 100%, being one of our greatest successes of the year. The project set precedence for an even greater one in 2022, which is well underway with over 110,000 plants to go in the ground.



Luke and Jye monitoring a direct seeding site in Glen Alvie for our 2021 Greening Australia project

Kugerungmome (Powlett River) Partnerships Project

The Kugerungmome (Powlett River) Partnerships Project was formed as part of West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's Integrated Catchment Management (ICM). Kugerungmome is the Bunurong traditional name for the Powlett River and we are appreciative of their contributions to the project, providing artwork, stories and cultural education at our planting days. The NRM team is coordinating the Bridge and Woolshed Creek sub-project, with an aim of fencing off and restoring the 2 creeks, as they cross through private properties in the lower Powlett Catchment. In our first year (of 3), we planted our first 7,000 plants out of 22,000 for the season. The project will restore connectivity for wildlife along our waterways and improve water quality entering the Powlett River estuary and Bass Strait.



3 Creeks volunteers planting along Bridge Creek as part of our Kugerungmome (Powlett River) Partnerships Project

Natural Resource Management Outputs

Overall on-ground outputs

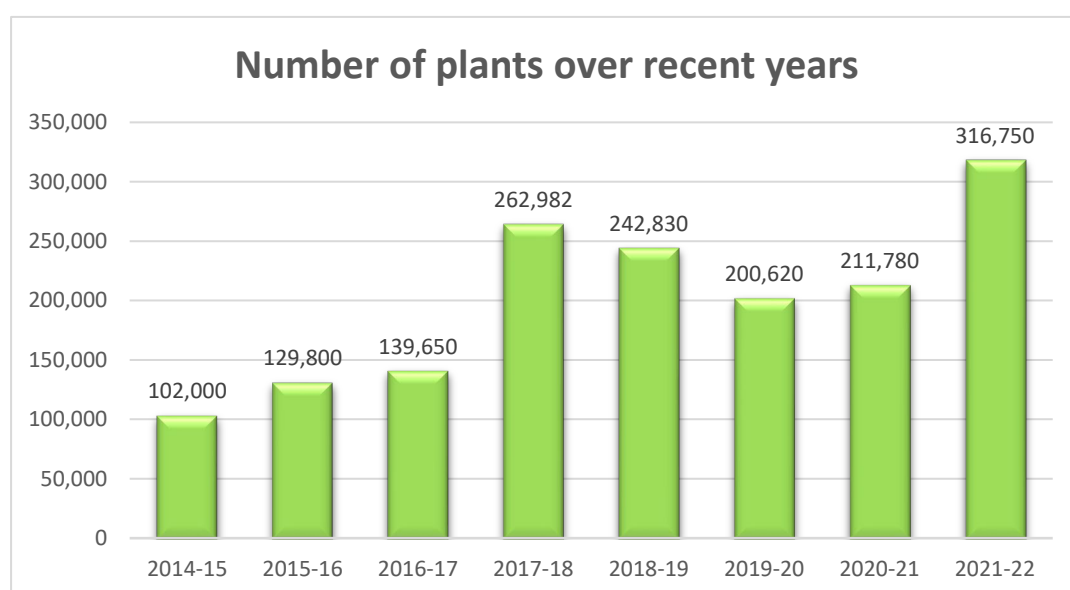
- 40,877 metres of fencing
- 316,750 indigenous plants in the ground

Outputs by each BCLN Landcare Group

- In the Three Creeks Landcare group area, 65,100 plants were planted, and 7,874 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Korumburra Landcare group area, 34,860 plants were planted, and 4,370 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Powlett Project Landcare group area, 51,560 plants were planted, and 7,010 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Kongwak Hills Landcare group area, 42,820 plants were planted, and 4,585 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Phillip Island Landcare group area, 20,900 plants were planted, and 2,880 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Bass Valley Landcare group area, 77,510 plants were planted, and 8,638 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the French Island Landcare group area, 3,700 plants were planted, and 1,200 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Anderson Inlet Landcare group area, 18,000 plants were planted, and 4,320 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group was formed.

Natural Resource Management Outcomes

- 120.33 Ha of land revegetated through Hiko plantings and Direct seeding
- 43.55 Ha of Remnant vegetation protected
- 510.5 Ha of Remnant vegetation enhanced through weed control
- EVCs re-established: Damp Forest, Wet Forest, Lowland Forest, Swamp Scrub, Damp Sands Herb-Rich Woodland, Swampy Riparian Woodland, Mangrove Shrubland, Grassy Woodland, Heathy Woodland, Riparian Forest, Coastal Dune Scrub, Gully Woodland
- 48 x 10-year Management Agreements established for ongoing management of revegetation and remnant protection projects
- Weeds of National Significance (WONS) controlled over 510.5 Ha



Ecosystems Services Portfolio

Robbie Gray - Ecosystem Services Manager

It was a year of flux within the Ecosystem Services area. The biggest disruption was within the Invasive Species team, with Jason McCracken (Rabbit / NRM Officer) leaving for a policy position within Parks Victoria, and Jason Good, at the end of a three-year stint establishing the team, left at the end of financial year to pursue a new career. However, this provided opportunity for other staff, with Aaron Stephens taking leadership of the team and Jack Harriss filling the Rabbit Officer role at the end of the financial year.

The Works Crew continues to grow to meet demand, and Mark Rowe has successfully juggled staff availability, training new staff, and yet again a larger number of jobs. The Works Crew finished the financial year strongly, getting through a lot of woody weeding and planting heading into winter. Bill Barry stepped into an acting Team Leader role to replace Jack Harriss, and to assist Mark with directing staff and resources on ground.

Stevie Wynen has wasted no time growing into the Nursery Supervisor role, successfully producing, and managing the biggest order yet - 82,000 seedlings! Dani Mathysen-Carr has worked really well with our amazing volunteer group, many of whom have been there from the start and are in their 6th year.

The Works Crew cost centre (including the Invasive Species team) earned \$170,000 above their fee for service budgeted income. Fee for service continues to grow and made up 40% of Works Crew income over 21-22. Partnership projects accounted for over 50%, with income from grants (falling short of budget) making up most of the remainder. The Works Crew and nursery transferred over \$250,000 to BCLN Administration and Operational cost centres for staff support.



Works Crew members L-R: Angus, Stevie, Fraser, Jack, Bill, Justin, and Mark

Invasive Species Program

Jason Good – Previous Pest Animal Coordinator

Jason McCracken – Previous Rabbit Project Officer

Aaron Stephens – Invasive Species Coordinator

Jack Harriss - Rabbit Project Officer

Parks Victoria

Continuing with Parks Victoria's Southern-Brown Bandicoot Protection Program, BCLN were once again contracted to control foxes at the Wonthaggi Heathlands for 2 pulses, and the Lang Lang Rail Line for 4 pulses via soft-jaw trapping. Additionally, 2 pulses of trapping occurred at Wilson's Promontory. Over all the pulses, 11 foxes were removed in areas of high tourist visitation, targeting the reduction of predation on threatened species. Intensive camera trapping continued to detect Southern-Brown Bandicoots.

Phillip Island Nature Parks

This is the seventh year that Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) have engaged Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) to undertake rabbit control on Phillip Island. The continuation of the Newhaven Buffer Zone rabbit control program has allowed the professional relationship between both organisations to flourish, as well as decreasing rabbit populations and their subsequent impact on high biodiversity areas such as Fisher's Wetland.

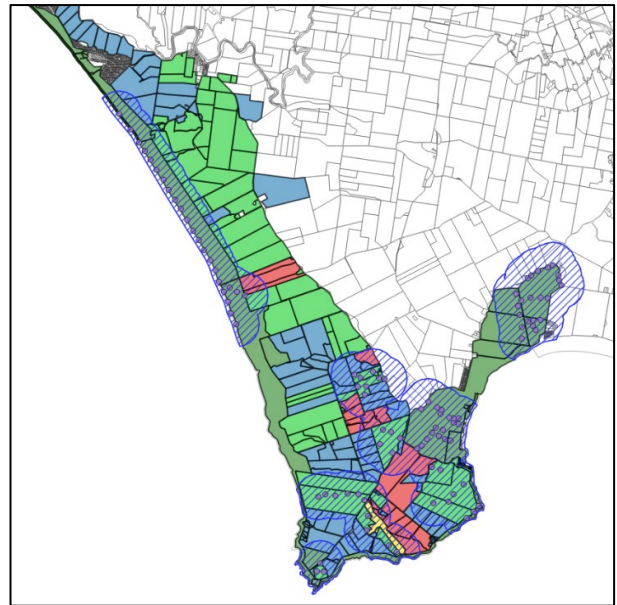
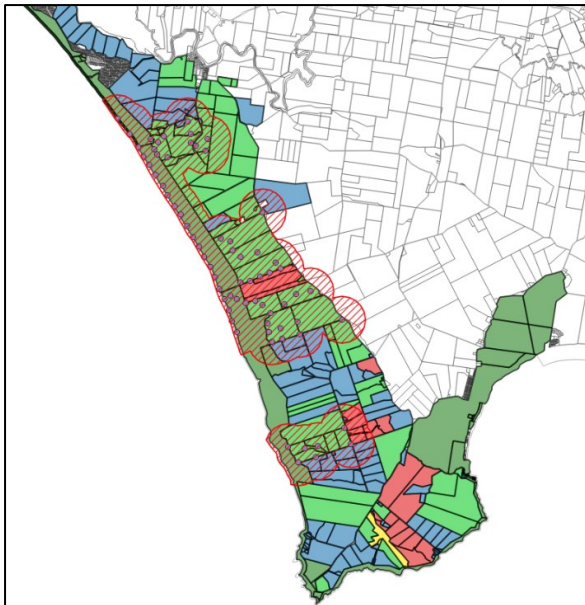
Six landholders were re-engaged from the previous year's program, allowing control to occur across 216 hectares across the buffer zone. The Fisher's Wetland rabbit-proof fence was repaired as necessary and large-scale warren treatment via fumigation occurred at all detected warrens. A total of 221 warrens were fumigated or collapsed, helping to reduce the impacts of rabbits across Newhaven. Several populations of the critically endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoot were observed during spotlight counts which was a great sign.



Map of target area where rabbit control occurred. Blue dots indicate treated warrens. Red dots indicate untreated warrens due to being submerged underwater.

South Gippsland Landcare Network

A 6-month extension to the already successful 3-year program allowed BCLN to continue to target foxes between Venus Bay and Walkerville, filling a gap between securing funding for continued control. On-ground works for this extension included 2 fox baiting pulses, rabbit warren mapping, and harbor removal of Boxthorn. Over the 2 pulses, an additional 136 baits were taken by foxes, a great result in a small amount of time.



Maps of extension baiting pulses and coverage of works. First pulse (left). Second pulse (right).

Coastcare Corinella

A Coastcare Victoria Community Grant saw rabbit works kick off in Corinella as part of a 2 year project. The project will reduce the grazing pressures of rabbits within RAMSAR zones to provide a safe haven for listed threatened species and protect the natural and cultural values within the Corinella Foreshore Reserve. Community members have been trained to use and record rabbit activity on the Feralscan app, which can then be directly utilised by BCLN to guide on-ground control. A volunteer day also ran, to handweed Kikuyu out of areas of sensitive vegetation, which complements the other less sensitive areas of the Northern Precinct where herbicide spraying was undertaken.



Aerial view of the 3 works zones in Corinella. Green dots indicate Pindone bait trails. Red indicates Settlement Point. Purple indicates the Western Precinct and Blue indicates the Northern Precinct where weed control also takes place.

Extensive Pindone baiting occurred throughout Settlement Point and the Western Precinct, with all bait trails being cleaned out by rabbits, indicating a highly successful uptake. Warrens were treated via fumigation in each of the 3 works areas to directly target the pests.

Westernport Water

Carrying on from successful works in previous years, BCLN continued their strong partnership with Westernport Water. This included the same three sites of Candowie Reservoir, King Road Treatment Plant, and the Cowes Treatment Plant.

Candowie Reservoir saw 2 pulses of soft-jaw trapping for 10 nights each, timed to reduce predation on the diverse and important wading bird population. The first pulse had 4 foxes removed and the second had 3. Notably, a trap site during the second pulse caught both a dog fox and vixen in the same night. This is a great result as it is directly removing a breeding pair from the population.

The King Road Treatment Plant is another important wading bird site, and again saw two 10-night pulses run with soft-jaw trapping. The first pulse saw one dog fox removed with the second pulse trapping no foxes. This is interesting as there is a similar level of sign and fox activity between Candowie and King Road and the same methods are being used at each site. A possible explanation could be that the foxes present at King Road are older and wiser than those at Candowie, thus avoiding traps.

Ross Trust Teaming Up to Tackle Rabbits and Subsidy Initiative

The 'Teaming Up to Tackle Rabbits' project launched this year, with most of the on-ground works consisting of mapping rabbit warrens in large buffer zones around the Summerland Peninsula and Observation Point. This is done to get an accurate assessment of the rabbit population and allows for intensive warren treatment/destruction to be done all at once over summer, when populations are likely to be at their lowest.

The purpose of this project is two-fold. One, to protect rabbits reinvading the highly biodiverse areas of the Summerland Peninsula and Observation Point and two, to engage the community to



Buffer Zones at Observation Point (left) and Summerland Peninsula (right). Green properties have been completely mapped, with red properties left to do. Orange dots indicate rabbit warrens.

tackle their own rabbit issues. The latter has been done by offering a subsidy incentive to landholders for discounts on rabbit control. Over the course of the year, 34 properties have signed up to the subsidy which is a fantastic uptake for only the first year.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

As part of the 'Our Catchment Our Community' program, BCLN were contracted to undertake 8 pulses of soft-jaw trapping in the Mouth of Powlett area between January and June 2022. The first two pulses were highly successful, with 6 foxes removed from the area. No foxes were trapped in any of the subsequent pulses however, positively, fox activity has dramatically decreased in the area.



An extremely positive outcome from this pulse was the observation of a pair of black swans (*Cygnus atratus*) nesting near the Mouth of Powlett flood plain. Through anecdotal research, no black swans have been seen nesting in this location for over 20 years. The presence of swans nesting on the floodplains indicates previous trapping pulses are relieving predation pressures on native faunal species. This trend should continue with an additional 9 pulses planned for the next financial year.

Aerial view of Mouth of Powlett indicating trap sites where soft-jaw traps are laid.

Albert Ruttle

Following on from successful pulses of fox trapping last year, BCLN were again contracted for 2 pulses of soft-jaw trapping in the Albert Ruttle Estate. Four foxes were trapped during the first pulse in July with 1 dog fox trapped during the second pulse in February.



Aerial view of Albert Ruttle Estate and where the 9 foxes have been trapped since Jan 2021. Green dots indicate 1 fox trapped. Red indicates 2 foxes trapped

Since this trapping program has started there have been reports from residents of bird species raising chicks which hasn't been seen before, such as Buff-banded rails and Grebes. This has been great to hear because this is exactly the reason why we undertake programs like this, and it is a testament to all the landholders involved in this program who have banded together to help protect the native species that inhabit the area.

Team Movements

Over the course of the year, there has been a major shuffle of the Invasive Species team. Both Jason McCracken and Jason Good have moved on from BCLN and have been succeeded by Jack Harriss as Project Officer and Aaron Stephens as Coordinator. Furthermore, the team has expanded by training up members of the Works Crew with licenses and training around Firearms, 1080 use and soft-jaw trapping. This has allowed us to take on additional contracts and run multiple pulses of baiting and trapping simultaneously to increase the efficiency of the team and take on more work than ever before.

Overall, the past year of Invasive Species control works have been greatly successful with the next financial year likely to expand the scope and quantity of work that BCLN undertakes.

Works Crew

Mark Rowe - Works Crew Coordinator

Bailey Andersen and Bill Barry - Works Crew Leading hands

Works Crew Members – Up to 15 staff at a time

Events and Plantings

We began the 2021/2022 financial year in the middle of the planting season. This year the Greening Australia project was the major funding source of the tree planting that we undertook this season. The good thing about the Greening Australia project is the variety of locations, including Chris Miller's property at Bena. With 13,000 plants going into a large creek running through the length of his property with multiple tributaries joining it, the site also has a lot of old remnant Blue gum trees. Earlier in the season we cut and painted to control all the Hawthorn trees, and an excavator was used to collect and pile up all the mess before planting. Changing scenery, we were on Geoff McInness's property on the Coast Road in Inverloch, looking straight out over Shack Bay, planting another 11,000 indigenous tube stock through Greening Australia.



Geoff McInness's planting site at Shack Bay

The site was along a waterway leading to the coast full of old remnant Coastal manna gums and Melaleuca, that looked like it had been there long before colonisation.

The Biolinks program was all encompassing, with school plantings and weekend plantings. Two weekend community planting days that stood out were firstly, Neville and Pam Chapmans property in Glen Alvie where 4,000 trees were planted in glorious sunshine with volunteers from the Hills are Alive event. The second one was at Alan and Linda Sproul's property in Ryanston where 3,500 plants were put in the ground with the help of Liminal Wellbeing. To the great delight of the staff helping, Dyson Heppel, the captain of the Essendon Football Club, was there along with some other notable football players.



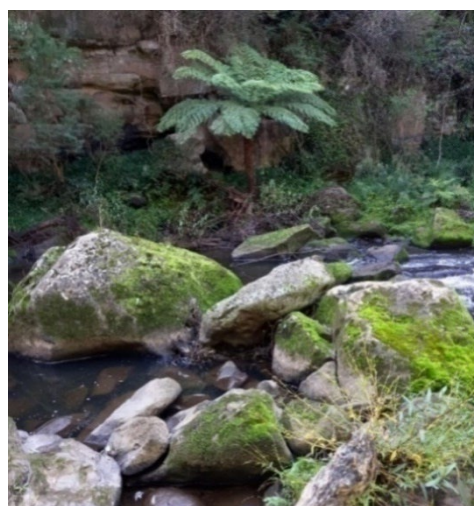
Jack and Dyson Heppel at Alan and Linda Sprouls community planting

Partnerships

The Works Crew have continued to strengthen our partnership with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. They engaged us to frill and fill to control Willows along 5km of the Agnes River at Toora working right up to the Agnes River waterfalls. This was a fantastic team building job, like going on a big adventure to places no one ever sees, every day. Using an app on our mobile phones we mapped every willow and pittosporum, we ended up registering almost 1,000 trees that we treated.

Through good networking and positive relationships with Holcim, we have been engaged to do weed control work at two extra Holcim owned quarry sites in Jeeralang and Leongatha.

South Gippsland Landcare Group has also engaged us to work on the Great Southern Rail Trail, working from Koonwarra to Meeniyan, frill and filling all woody weeds along this section. This was delivered through funding from Regional Roads Victoria.



Agnes River Toora WGCMA funded willow treatment

Moving with the Times

With the demand and size of the workload, we have welcomed several new crew members this financial year who have all brought varied knowledge and experience to our organisation. Our new trainee, Fraser West, is proving to be more than competent in all aspects of the works crew and has a very bright future in the environmental field.



Trainee Fraser West

Training

We conducted a field trip to Dave Sutton's property in Arawata to explain and demonstrate the differing Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) and plant placement, to help all staff better understand where and why the different species of plants should be placed. We also completed our first aid and CPR training. As new staff came on board, they were all provided training and certificates in Australian Chemical Users Permit and Safe Operating and Maintenance of Chainsaws. From the training we have completed, our skills are now more refined and further developed. As a result, we are now able to have up to 15 active people working on the Works Crew on a regular basis.

Bass Landcare Indigenous Nursery Group

Stevie Wynen - Nursery Manager

Dani Mathysen-Carr - Nursery Assistant

The Nursery and volunteer group has had another successful season, following the expansion last financial year, we were able to propagate 80,000 seedlings, the largest growing season to date. This is a 50% increase from the previous growing season. The new hardening off area was of great use and gave us plenty of room to store our seedlings and organise them into project orders. The growing season went smoothly with the aid of the newly installed shade house, which allowed seedlings to have a more gradual hardening off process as they moved through the nursery. Thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work through this season and well done to Stevie for managing the largest season yet, and without the aid of founding member Bronwyn Teesdale. Danielle also joined the nursery team in an official capacity, taking the new role of volunteer supervisor in her stride. Danielle facilitates the volunteer group and assists in organising their activities and events and has also been a great help to Stevie in the day to day running of the nursery.

The Nursery space has remained full to the brim all winter long, as we have had close to 200,000 plants delivered from external nurseries - on top of the 80,000 grown here. A large portion of these plant deliveries were plants for Greening Australia projects. These were stored at the nursery and broken up into orders for Greening Australia projects by Stevie and Danielle.



Very full nursery after plant deliveries

During the quiet winter months this year, the volunteer group decided to run a bird box project which they received funding for from the Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grants program. The Wonthaggi Men's Shed were gracious enough to help us with our project by designing and supplying the bird boxes in flat pack kits for the weekly volunteer members to construct. The boxes will be installed in the vegetation along the Bass River and will provide nesting space for four native species, Boobook owls, Pardalotes, Rosellas, and Sugar gliders.



Nursery volunteers, building and staining nest boxes

The nursery group also had an excursion out to fellow volunteer Ray Kirk's property, where they planted and guarded 500 plants. A great effort from all involved followed by a well-deserved morning tea catered by Ray and his wife.

We are currently planning a further expansion of the nursery's facilities which will allow us to not only hold more plants as they get delivered through the Winter months but will also allow the nursery to grow 120,000 seedlings in the next season. This will assist BCLN to secure a source of quality plants while also gaining new contracts to grow plants for Greening Australia. The new expansion will include a third hot house, developing a new shade house area, and extending the previously built hardening off area.



Planting day at Ray Kirk's property

Outputs

- Over 48 volunteer mornings attended, averaging 10 dedicated volunteers a week.
- Propagated 80,000 seedlings, a 50% increase from last season.
- Upwards of 100,000 Greening Australia plants were delivered, stored, and sorted into orders for projects.
- Installation of a shade house allowing a more dynamic system for seedlings to move throughout the nursery.

Outcomes and Group Highlights

- The Volunteers had a great excursion day held at Ray Kirk's property, where they planted and guarded 500 plants before indulging in a delicious morning tea provided by Ray and his wife.
- Planning a further expansion of facilities for the upcoming propagation season, including a third hothouse and extension of hardening off areas.
- The volunteers undertook a bird box project funded by the Bass Coast Shire Council. The group are constructing 40 bird boxes of various designs for four native species including sugar gliders, and boobook owls which are being installed in the vegetation along the Bass River.

Lead an Innovative Sustainable Agricultural Community

Sustainable Agriculture Portfolio

Joel Geoghegan – Team leader, Sustainable Agriculture

Building on the success of the 2020/21 program, the Sustainable Agriculture program again went from strength to strength. It was a year that continued the momentum of the 'Smart Farming in Westernport' Project and finally saw the release of the much-anticipated Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP). The Australian Government funded 'Farmers Digging Deeper' project was also successfully announced during 2021/22.

Project: Growing Southern Gippsland

Whilst this project concluded in December 2020 the development of the Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) was ongoing. The much-anticipated CAP was finally released in April 2021, 16 months after the original project completion. The commitment of all project partners has to be recognised as everyone worked above and beyond the original project scope to get the CAP completed.



The CAP is available online and can be accessed through the following weblink:

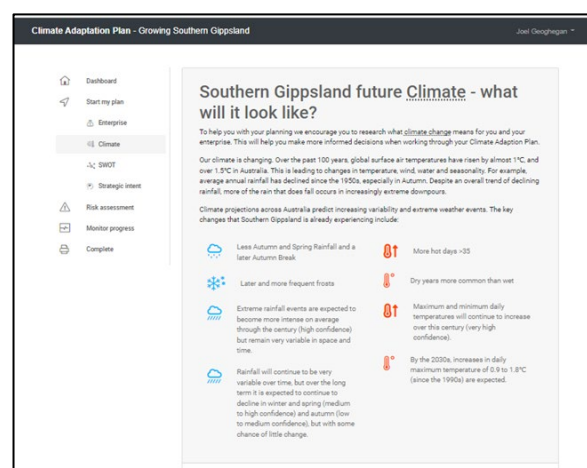
<https://growingssoutherngippsland.org.au/DevelopingMyPlan>

One CAP workshop has been hosted by BCLN taking a group of farmers through the tool. Feedback was very positive, with the below evaluation quotes highlighting this positivity.

"I would definitely recommend this CAP. It helps you to step back and view your farm from a different angle. It promotes thought regarding different climate challenges that are sometimes overlooked in the day to day running of a farm".

"The suggestions for solutions to the threats and problems on our farm was most useful. The links to resources will be incredibly helpful".

"The CAP tool is really good because it can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be for your context. I will be definitely using it - especially to help monitor progress made".



A screenshot of the Southern Gippsland Future Climate page in the CAP tool.

Where to from here, what's next? Future plans include the ongoing maintenance and upgrade of the CAP tool, funding dependant. We are also looking at opportunities to develop the next stage of the process, the 'Whole of Farm Emissions plan'.

www.growingssoutherngippsland.com.au

Project: Smart Farming in Westernport - National Landcare Program 2

2021/22 marked the fourth year of the Smart Farming in Westernport project funded through the National Landcare Program 2. This project is a continuation of the previous Demonstrating Sustainable Agriculture project. The project is operating across the entire Westernport Catchment and is a partnership between the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, Westernport Catchments Landcare Network, South Gippsland Landcare Network, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Melbourne Water and Agriculture Victoria. The project is funded for 5 years with 2022/23 being the final year of the project.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the project was required to continually adapt its delivery methods, particularly in the first half of the financial year to end December.

With the region in and out of snap lockdowns the project had to quickly adapt to changing delivery circumstances, often changing overnight to ensure the project could still move forward to reach its agreed deliverables. This flexibility enabled us to achieve all project deliverables for 2022/22. In 2021/22 the project undertook the following activities:

- One ongoing soil carbon demonstration site at Bimbadeen on Phillip Island. Monitoring is ongoing with a case study report to be developed by June 2023.
- One ongoing soil carbon demonstration site at Kernot. Monitoring is ongoing with a case study report to be developed by June 2023.
- One Trees and Timber field day attended by 63 people in May 2022.
- One Circular Economy Webinar attended by 18 people in June 2022.
- 15 discussion group events attended by 262 people



Ranceby Tree farmer, Frank Hirst, speaking at the Trees and Timber field day hosted in May 2022.

Discussion groups

In 2021/22 the Smart Farming in Westernport Project hosted 15 Discussion group events with a combined attendance of 262 people. This included 6 Kongwak Ellipak Discussion Group events, 6 regenerative agriculture discussion group events and 3 diversification discussion group events.

2021/22 discussion group highlights include the following:

- Successfully hosting 3 discussion group events online over zoom.
- Successfully hosted 12 'on farm' discussion group events.



In March 2022 we visited the property of respected regenerative agriculture consultant, Declan McDonald.



Dan Bright from Amber Creek Farm and Sawmill, Fish Creek, speaking at the Trees and Timber field day hosted in May 2022.

Thank you to Faye Tughton for coordinating the Kongwak Ellipak discussion group events. Also, a big thanks to all our online and on-farm hosts and our guest speakers for the 2021/22 year. Future priorities for all these groups include:

- Planning to develop long term group priorities.
- Encourage increased participation in the discussion groups.
- Further integrate regenerative agriculture into our programs in 2022/23.

Future Homes and Farms for 2040 – Sustainable Agriculture sessions

In support of the Future Homes and Farms for 2040 project, the Sustainable Agriculture program facilitated two webinars and one in person event in 2021/22. In total 38 people attended these events which are described in the Education, Training and Communications Portfolio report.

Feedback for these events was very positive and formed part of a very successful series of educational events coordinated by BCLN in 2021/22 across multiple programs.



Guest speaker, Gerhard Grasser, taking participants through a visual soil assessment process. Regenerative Agriculture for small farms workshop - 18th June 2022.

Capitalise on Carbon

All Things Carbon (ATC) Program

BCLN's All Things Carbon program has been slowly moving forward behind the scenes in 2021/22. The demand for food and fibre is increasing, but during periods of climate variability, maintaining a productive and profitable farm is becoming increasingly important. Farms that provide shade and shelter, and build and increase soil organic matter, are more resilient during extreme and variable climate and weather events. Regenerative agriculture is the umbrella philosophy that describes these more resilient farm management practices.

2021/22 has seen an increased focus on introducing the concepts of Regenerative agriculture into the farming community of Bass Coast and Southern Gippsland. We hosted a very successful Regenerative agriculture training program in late 2021 as well as 6 Regenerative agriculture farm walks over 2021/22. The series of videos produced in 2019/20 are continually being accessed by our farming community who are interested in the regenerative agriculture pathway. This video series will continually support future training programs.

Regenerative agriculture has many benefits, one in particular is the increasing of sequestered carbon on farm, either soil carbon or tree carbon. Sequestered carbon can be traded and is considered a co-benefit alongside productivity gains through increased fertility and water holding capacity. Southern Gippsland and Bass Coast have been identified as areas of high opportunity for carbon sequestration on-farm.

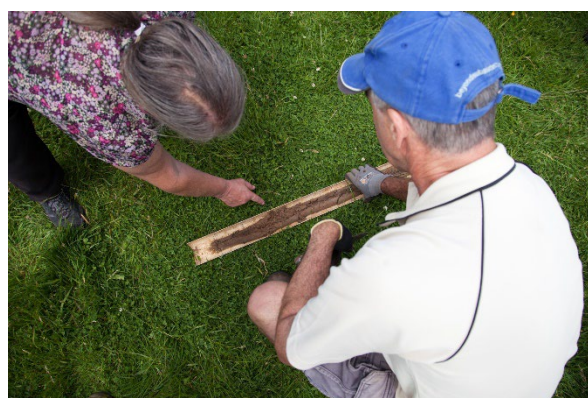
BCLN will continue to push forward with the 'All things carbon' strategy and continue to seek funding to develop it further into the future. Having spent a significant amount of energy providing comment and feeding information to the BCSC for their Climate Action Plan, we are continually hopeful that there will be some great outcomes from this plan that include supporting BCLN to roll out future Climate Adaptation Plan workshops and support future events and training opportunities such as the Bass Coast Sustainability Festival and Future farming workshops.

BCLN Staff are planning to participate in a Carbon Neutral Agriculture Training program organised by the University of Melbourne in 2022/23. BCLN staff are also planning to jointly coordinate with other Regional Landcare Staff, training on the use of on-farm emissions calculators.

Research into funding opportunities is also underway with the aim of securing future funding to develop a Whole of Farm Emissions Plan which will be a follow up to the Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP).

Through the Smart Farming in Westernport and Farmers Digging Deeper projects, we are continually promoting the on-farm benefits on Regenerative agriculture and carbon sequestration. We are also managing numerous demonstrations showcasing different methodologies of multi-species cropping.

We look forward to 2022/23 and beyond with optimism, and are excited to report on good progress in future years.



Deliver leading edge experiences, education and training

Education, Training and Communications Portfolio

Lisa Wangman - Education, Training and Communications Manager

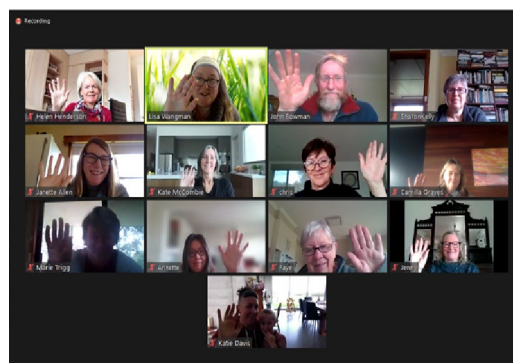
Administration and Communications Assistant - Anna Brayley

Project Support Officer - Luke Phillips

Despite continuing uncertainty with three snap lockdowns and restrictions on gatherings and events continuing until December, our team showed great resilience and innovation, creating and hosting online and in-person learning experiences which continued to engage and re-engage our communities through challenging times. We welcomed Anna back from maternity leave and congratulated Luke and Minnie on the arrival of baby Lavender. We also began training Luke to assist with school activities, River Garden maintenance and volunteers, expanding the abilities of our team.

Training Programs - Women on Farms Series

The first event in this series was run in July 2021, pivoting at the last minute to online delivery. We explored the topic of 'Managing Winter pugging of pastures' with John Bowman from Agriculture Victoria with 16 in attendance. We would like to thank Faye Tughton for helping organize these days and are planning for more, with funding support from Southern Farming Systems and The Bass Coast Community Foundation.



Future Homes Farms and Festivals for 2040

This project has now produced several workshops, video stories, a Sustainability Festival for Bass Coast, and forged a stronger connection to many of our partners and other environmental organisations. Funded by the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Bass Coast Shire Council via their Climate Adaptation strategy, we have certainly been on a rollercoaster of multiple changes, postponements, delays, and pivots to online delivery of events. Innovation often arises in periods of adversity however, and our team rose to the challenge, successfully redesigning project activities to suit the Covid imposed restrictions, delivering great outcomes and experiences for many. In addition to last year's events, this year Joel and Lisa worked with Anna and Luke to run the following events and produce the following resources:

- 'Water Management in a Changing Climate' Field Day at Camilla Graves farm, 3rd May 2021, attended by 37 people.
- 'Planning and Managing for Pasture and Crop Diversity in a Changing Climate' webinar, 23rd September 2021 with 15 people.
- 'Planning and Managing Remnant Vegetation and Revegetation in a Changing Climate' webinar on 14th October 2021, with 10 people.
- 'Connecting Community for Social Resilience' webinar, 24th November with 20 people.

- 'Resilient Urban Gardens and Comfortable Homes of the Future' Online Video Launch and Q&A webinar on 15th December with 17 people.
- 'Regenerative Agriculture for Small Farms' workshop. In person event at the River Garden on 18th June 2022, attended by 13 people.
- 12 edited Zoom recordings of events or presentations and 9 PDF presentations
- 1 field day video, 6 Case study video products, working with Drift Media and Seagrass Films.
- 9 web pages including 3 legacy information pages available for anytime access on our BCLN website at <https://www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/future-homes-and-farms-for-2040.html>

BCLN also took over the management of the Sustainability Festival from Bass Coast Shire Council. By the winter of 2021, after numerous postponements, we needed to come up with a 'Covid-proof' option to run a festival that could still operate under the harshest of restrictions, as we needed



to use our DELWP funding by the end of 2021. That's when our team came up with the 'Reimagined' festival as a series of online and in-person events, instead of one big in-person event. We invited other groups and organisations to host events, over six weeks of sustainability, between October 24th and December 5th. We advertised over 60 events in our program, with

51 taking place, averaging 15 people at each event.



MC Costa Georgiadis at the Sustainability Festival Launch

We launched the festival online, hosted by MC Costa Georgiadis with a range of amazing guest speakers to around 75 families glued to the screen for over two hours on October 23rd. We had over 150 booked, although as Melbourne just got out of months of lockdown the night before, the attendance was much lower. The launch was recorded and is available to watch anytime at

<https://www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/sustainabilityfestival2021.html>

The Produce and sustainability market on December 5th at the River Garden in Bass was the final event in the festival, with 15 stalls ranging from electric vehicles, through to local food products, with an estimated 500 people attending throughout the day. The festival was a great success, with fantastic feedback from everyone involved.

We are hoping to continue our partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council to bring you a series of new Future Homes, Farms and Festivals events and resources next year.



The Produce and Sustainability Market at the River Garden on the 5th of December, 2021

Catchment Custodian Kids, Environmental Detectives Schools programs and Place Based Learning Tours

Although schools continued to transition between home-based learning to classrooms and back again, we managed to squeeze some activities in between lockdowns in 2021. In early 2022 many schools were playing catchup on missed schooling, but by the start of Term two, we were back taking regular activities with a busy schedule of bookings and tree planting days. By the end of June 2022, we had taken 18 activities with 6 schools involving over 550 children.



Lisa taking a Soils ain't Soils activity for Phillip Island Village school students at the Rooks Farm.

Our funding from both the Port Phillip and Westernport (now Melbourne Water) and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authorities for the Catchment Custodian Kids programs allowed us to bus large groups of students to tree planting sites, with a whopping 11,000 plants planted on one day by Year 9's from Wonthaggi Secondary College (now Bass Coast College).

With \$200,000 from the DELWP Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Capital Grants Program this year, we are able to take 75 free Environmental Detectives school activities including bus transport, a series of place-based tours and podcast tours for the general public and construct an education shelter in the River Garden. We have been planning with our Landcare groups and other environmental organisations, for our new 'Looking at the Landscape with Landcare' tour series and started discussions with contractors for our River Garden shelter. These activities will continue into 2023.

There are now 10 activities in our Environmental Detectives program, you can see the full list at <http://www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/education.html> Our newest activity launched this year, 'Set up a Citizen Science Program at your School or Local Reserve using iNaturalist' helps schools set up their own project in this platform to engage with the scientific community to identify the creatures and plants around them. Bookings for Term 3 2022, were also ramping up, set to be the busiest term in a very long time. How great to get students out and about in our local landscapes again!

Bass Coast Food Collective

BCLN is an auspice for a grant from Bass Coast Council's Community Grants, for the Bass Coast Food Collective. A steering committee of representatives from BCLN, Totally Renewable Phillip Island, Bass Coast Climate Action Network, PICAL, Phillip Island Community Orchard and five local producers, makes this project a great community collaboration. This project involves researching the status of local food systems, then gathering community feedback on gaps and opportunities, to produce a Scoping study. This will now incorporate findings from an online survey with recommendations and future potential actions to be funded (potentially by Council, grants, or Philanthropic sources) to continue the work of the Collective. Look out for the survey opening later in 2022 to have your say on working towards improving our local food systems.

River Garden

The River Garden at Bass is a Iha community, educational garden and small farm trials site that began development in 2017, as a co-creation with community. There is currently an orchard, nuttury, hops, swale beds, berry trellis, espaliered fruit trees, kitchen garden demonstration, annual vegetable box beds, and a dung beetle nursery.

Despite multiple postponements and changes to numbers at public activities that were allowed, we were able to host three school and TAFE groups involving 52 students, and seven River Garden Blitz Days involving 140 people with guest speakers, local Horticulturalist Adrian James and Permaculturalist Ric Coleman. At these hands on days we explored topics including; fruit tree pruning, companion planting, pests and disease management, irrigation, sustainable gardening, composting, soils, sowing and growing seasonal vegetables. These days have been made possible via our grant from VicHealth 'River Garden Kids Learn, Grow and Connect with Community to Produce Healthy Food'. Our remaining school programs in this grant are planned to run into 2023. Bass Coast Specialist school students, with some studying Certificate II in Horticulture, are joining us weekly from Term three this year, and visits are planned from Bass Coast College Students, including the Flexible Learning Options students, VCAL students and Agriculture/Horticulture students. In February 2022, we also had over 100 visitors to the River Garden as part of the Bass Coast Edible Gardens Open Weekend, organised by the Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre.

We really look forward to our weekly sessions with participants from Interchange, who assist people with disabilities to participate in meaningful activities and work within their communities. We received a small grant of \$1,000 through the Bass Coast Shire Council Building Disability Inclusive Businesses and Community Organisations Grant for stone to improve our pathways and the Interchange group and other volunteers have been working hard to resurface our old paths to create easier access for people of limited mobility. We are very grateful for this assistance, contributing towards a whopping total of 1,075 volunteer hours over the year, for without it, we wouldn't be able to manage the River Garden. A big thank you goes out to all of our volunteers.



Volunteers from Interchange at the River Garden

This year has seen many changes, including a focus on management of our swale beds, fruit trees, and garden box beds. We haven't planted as thickly as we could have, to ensure the site remains manageable. After our last trial of the '3 sisters' planting method, our previous trials areas have been retired for now, as we slowly re-engage more of our community to help us manage the site. We also sadly said goodbye to Colleen from Coll's Plants who has left the River Garden to follow a change in career. We wish her all the best and thank her for her generous inputs of time, advice, and assistance to make the site what it is today.

We are in negotiations with contractors for the design of our education shelter at the River Garden, a much needed undercover and storage space that will greatly enhance the range of groups, events, and activities we will be able to host. At this stage, construction will begin in early 2023. Funding from the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Capital Grants Program as mentioned above, will contribute to this, however we are applying for several grants to leverage these funds to further develop the space into a true community asset for Bass Coast, a hub for community environmental education, climate resilience and local food. By engaging more of our community and further developing partnerships, we aim to turn the site into a self-supporting enterprise, which provides education to encourage environmental awareness, innovation and diversification of food production and distribution in Bass Coast. See you down at the River Garden!!

BCLN Communications activities

Our Communications activities this year included assistance for some of our Landcare groups to transition to a new membership portal, to manage payments and records, hosted by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

We have also begun work on a promotional video for our Works Crew services, working with Seagrass Films, which should be ready by the end of 2022, so we can share this with our members, future partners, and other local land managers to show how we can assist with many different types of land management works.

Our web page <https://www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/> continues to grow in content and resources, with new additions this year to podcasts, videos, fact sheets and pages, including the new Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group, Available Anytime Sustainability pages compiled as a result of our Sustainability Festival, as well as updates to our Public Fund page.

We now have a social media posting schedule and planner that helps our staff align content to 'days or weeks of' so we can use the algorithms to our advantage and continue to grow our followers and engagement. Our social media is where you will get the most up to date information, we get great feedback from our members and followers, please take a look, like and share our pages if you haven't already!

<https://www.instagram.com/basscoastlandcarenetwork/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BassCoastLandcareNetwork>

Our other main communications tool, our monthly Enews, is also very well received and sent to a continually rising number of subscribers. If you don't already receive this head over to our website and enter your email at the bottom of any of our pages to subscribe. We are always looking for contributions from our members and groups to share what's happening in Landcare across Bass Coast, so if you have an interesting story, event, ideas, opportunity or photos to share we would love to hear from you at info@basscoastlandcare.org.au



Facebook

- 1600 in June 2020
- 2000 in June 2021
- 2340 in June 2022



Instagram

- 450 in June 2021
- 490 in June 2022



E-news

- 1300 in June 2020
- 1500 in June 2021
- 1821 in June 2022



Audited Financial Statements

Bass Coast Landcare Network

Bass Coast Landcare Network Public fund

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2022

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

		2022	2021
Revenues from ordinary activities	2	2,204,805	1,588,242
Employee expenses		(1,375,423)	(1,211,978)
Depreciation expense	3	(56,901)	(44,321)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(764,002)	(401,533)
Loss on disposal assets		-	(1,389)
Interest expense		451	(744)
Operating surplus / (deficit)		8,930	(71,723)
Job keeper income		-	327,000
Total COVID-19 funding received	8	-	327,000
Net operating surplus		8,930	255,277
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to the members of the association		8,930	255,277

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	NOTE	2022	2021
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit – BCLN Reserve		600,000	600,000
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit – Leave		199,708	199,525
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit – Capacity Building		137,203	137,049
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits - General		596,320	595,925
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account		606,321	538,882
Total cash and cash equivalents		2,139,552	2,071,381
Accounts receivable		82,032	124,602
Less provision for doubtful debts		-	(227)
Total accounts receivable		82,032	124,375
Accrued interest		461	464
Prepayments		5,182	6,351
Sundry debtors		1,688	-
Total other current assets		7,331	6,815
Total current assets		2,228,915	2,202,571
Plant & equipment	3	308,228	244,116
Total non-current assets		308,228	244,116
TOTAL ASSETS		2,537,143	2,446,687
Accounts payable & accrued expenses		100,291	66,631
Bendigo Bank BCLN Mastercard		1,318	1,387
Project balances carried forward	7	746,287	700,817
Income received in advance		-	2,000
Employee entitlements		235,286	210,968
BAS payable		69,082	87,266
Finance lease liabilities (current)	6	-	1,669
Total current liabilities		1,152,264	1,070,738
Finance lease liabilities (non-current)	6	-	-
Total non-current liabilities		-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,152,264	1,070,738
NET ASSETS		1,384,879	1,375,949
BCLN reserve		600,000	600,000
Retained surplus		775,949	520,672
Current year surplus		8,930	255,277
TOTAL EQUITY		1,384,879	1,375,949

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Retained Surplus	Reserves	Total
Balance at 30 June 2020	720,672	400,000	1,120,672
Surplus attributable to members	255,277	-	255,277
Transfer funds to reserve	(200,000)	200,000	-
Balance at 30 June 2021	775,949	600,000	1,375,949
Surplus attributable to members	8,930	-	8,930
Balance at 30 June 2022	784,879	600,000	1,384,879

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	NOTE	2022	2021
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers and funding bodies		2,514,500	2,280,105
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,327,122)	(1,700,740)
Interest received		3,475	9,322
Cash Flow Boost and JobKeeper received		-	438,250
Net cash provided by operating activities	2	190,853	1,026,937
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(121,013)	(72,002)
Proceeds of sale of equipment		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(121,013)	(72,002)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Transfers from term deposits (net)		(732)	(592,075)
Lease repayments of finance lease		(1,669)	(8,863)
Net cash used in financing activities		(2,401)	(600,938)
Net increase in cash for the period		67,439	353,997
Cash at beginning of period		538,882	184,885
Cash at end of period	1	606,321	538,882

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 1: RECONCILIATION OF CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS **2022** **2021**

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes:

1) Cash on hand and in at-call deposits with banks or financial institutions:

Cash at bank	606,321	538,882
Cash on hand	-	-
Total	606,321	538,882

NOTE 2: RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS WITH OPERATING SURPLUS

Net operating surplus	8,930	255,277
Non-cash flows in operating surplus:		
Depreciation & amortisation	56,901	44,321
Loss on disposal of assets	-	1,389
Interest expense in lease repayments	-	744
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) / decrease in receivables & accrued income	41,827	143,412
Increase / (decrease) in tax payable	(18,184)	61,639
Increase / (decrease) in project income in advance	43,470	458,853
Increase / (decrease) in trade creditors & accruals	33,591	22,447
Increase / (decrease) in employee leave entitlements	24,318	38,855
Net cash & cash equivalents provided by operating activities	190,853	1,026,937

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements cover Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. as an individual entity. Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. is an association incorporated in Victoria under the *Associations Incorporations Reform Act (Vic) 2012*. Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. is also registered as a charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial report was authorised to issue on 25 October 2022.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Standards of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013* ("ACNC Regulation"). The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

a. Income tax

The association is exempt from income tax as a not-for-profit entity.

b. Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

c. Property, plant and equipment

The association does not own any land and buildings. Leasehold improvements related to the building utilised by the association are capitalised and amortised on a straight-line basis over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses. The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the Board to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements. The depreciation rates used range from 2.5% to 30% dependent upon the nature of the asset.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

d. Impairment of Assets

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the association to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

e. Employee benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year have been measured at their nominal amounts. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Contributions are made by the association to an employees' superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

f. Leases

Contracts are assessed at inception to determine if the contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. No right-of-use assets and corresponding lease liabilities have been recognised.

The short-term lease recognition exception is applied for short term leases (i.e., those lease that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date or where the lease term is not specified and does not contain a purchase option). It also applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to leases that are considered to be low value. Leases payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The temporary exemption allowed under AASB16 and AASB1058 for below market lease terms and conditions for not-for-profit entities to be measured a cost rather than fair value has been applied. The existing terms of the lease is disclosed in Note 5.

g. Revenue

Revenue is recognised in accordance with AASB1058 Income of Not-for-profit Entities and recorded as income when received unless the income is related to a service contract (refer below).

Revenue is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

h. Unexpended Funds

Funding is recognised as income upon receipt, unless where the grant funding is provided in accordance with specific contractual obligations. In this case, the grant funding is only recognised as income when the specific contractual obligations have been fulfilled.

The reconciliation of the movement in the balance of unexpended project funds is recorded in Note 7.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

i. **Accounts receivable**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due to from residents and other parties for services provided in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at the estimate recoverable amount taking into account any provision for impairment.

j. **Accounts payable**

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

k. **Comparative figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

l. **Critical Accounting Estimate and Judgments**

The Board evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information.

Key Estimates — Project Balances

The Board have estimated the value of project income received to 30 June 2022 that has not yet been expended in accordance with the relevant funding deeds and the balance has been recorded as a current liability.

Key Judgments — Doubtful Debts Provision

The Board have estimated the value of debt which may not be recoverable and determined an appropriate provision for doubtful debts at 30 June 2022.

m. **Change in accounting policies**

There has been no significant change in accounting policy during the financial year.

Any new, revised or amending Australian Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 2: REVENUE	2022	2021
Grants and partnership income received	1,596,920	1,201,053
Project management/network services	58,862	20,142
Fee for service income	545,121	356,574
Interest income	3,021	6,543
Sundry/other income	881	3,930
Total operating income received	2,004,805	1,588,242

NOTE 3: PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Leasehold improvements	115,203	90,444
Accumulated depreciation	(47,394)	(40,588)
Written down value	67,809	49,856
Plant & equipment	244,503	186,617
Accumulated depreciation	(135,435)	(114,837)
Written down value	109,068	71,780
Office furniture & equipment	28,403	29,677
Accumulated depreciation	(22,286)	(20,149)
Written down value	6,117	9,528
Motor vehicles	245,968	207,600
Accumulated amortisation	(120,734)	(94,648)
Written down value	125,234	112,952
Total plant & equipment at written down value	308,228	244,116

Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial reporting period.

	Leasehold Improvements	Plant & Equipment	Office Furniture	Motor Vehicles	Total
Balance at start	49,856	71,780	9,528	112,952	244,116
Additions	24,759	57,886	-	38,368	121,013
Depreciation	(6,806)	(20,598)	(3,411)	(26,086)	(56,901)
Disposals (net)	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at end	67,809	109,068	6,117	125,234	308,228

NOTE 4: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Members of the Board act in an honorary capacity and do not receive any payments for performing this role. Members of the Board do not receive any benefit other than those available to any member of the association. Where a Board member provides services to the association in a professional capacity, any payment is approved by the Board.

NOTE 5: LEASES

The office premises from which the association operates at Bass School Road, Bass and the Depot and Nursery at Hade Avenue, Bass are leased from the Bass Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc. The current lease is valid until 2025. The annual rental for each site is considered to be a below market lease.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 6: FINANCE LEASE LIABILITIES

Finance Leases	2022	2021
Payable - Not later than 1 year	-	1,875
- Between 1 year and 2 years	-	-
- Between 2 years and 5 years	-	-
	-	1,875
Less future finance charges	-	(206)
Present value of minimum lease payments	-	1,669
Represented in the financial report by:		
Current lease liability	-	1,669
Non-current lease liability	-	-
Total lease liability	-	1,669

NOTE 7: PROJECT BALANCES

Opening project balances	700,817	241,763
Income received into project accounts	866,902	1,151,457
Funds transferred to Bass Coast Landcare Network	(437,079)	(533,707)
Expenses paid out from projects (recognised as income)	(384,353)	(158,696)
Closing balance	746,287	700,817

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

In the opinion of the committee of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc., the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 11:

- i) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Standards of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.
- ii) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. and is signed for and on behalf of the Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. by:

President


Linda Bowden

Treasurer


Roger Lee

25 October 2022

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc., which comprises the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2022, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by members of the Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. is in accordance with Section 100(2) of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the "Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Board of the association is responsible for other information. The other information comprises the information included in the association's annual report for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the members of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Standards, the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. This responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board are responsible for overseeing the association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, other the override of internal control
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and relates disclosures made by the Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify from our audit.

CARDELL ASSURANCE & AUDIT

Lyndal J. McKenzie
3A Billson Street
WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

31 October 2022

COMPILATION REPORT TO BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statement of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc comprising the detailed income and expenditure report for the Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statement has been prepared is to provide financial information to the Board.

The Responsibility of the Board

The Board of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statement, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the financial statement were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the Board we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statement in accordance with the basis of accounting and APES 315: Compilation of Financial Information (issued by the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board).


We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile this financial statement in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statement. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The special purpose financial statement was compiled exclusively for the benefit of the Board who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

CARDELL ASSURANCE & AUDIT



Lyndal J. McKenzie
3A Billson Street
WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

23 October 2022

Bass Coast Landcare Network

Profit & Loss

Financial Year ended 30 June 2022

	Jul 21 - Jun 22	Jul 20 - Jun 21	\$ Change
Dept Eco Develop, Jobs, Transport & Revenue	-	7,711.74	(7,711.74)
Dept Industry, Innovation & Science	4,723.00	5,596.00	(873.00)
Dept of Envir, Land Water	164,978.60	198,772.10	(33,793.50)
Pt Phillip & Wport CMA	104,430.09	44,364.91	60,065.18
West Gippsland CMA	24,777.00	5,726.75	19,050.25
Total Grants	298,908.69	262,171.50	36,737.19
Bass Coast Shire Council	470,812.90	327,477.24	143,335.66
Greening Australia	143,092.82	13,220.00	129,872.82
Holcim	22,516.76	9,585.00	12,931.76
Landcare Australia	1,890.00	16,358.00	(14,468.00)
Melbourne Water	29,640.06	48,022.63	(18,382.57)
Parks Victoria	21,285.25	-	21,285.25
Phillip Island Nature Parks	36,147.25	23,252.82	12,894.43
South Gippsland Landcare Group	80,000.00	241,200.03	(161,200.03)
Vic Health	17,460.00	-	17,460.00
Westernport Catchment LN	71,087.50	50,949.96	20,137.54
Westernport Water	19,726.00	50,120.00	(30,394.00)
Total Partnerships	913,658.54	780,185.68	133,472.86
Bass Valley Landcare Group	31,080.00	705.00	30,375.00
French Island Landcare Group	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Korumburra Landcare Group	1,749.98	8,000.00	(6,250.02)
Phillip Island Landcare Group	6,782.00	4,760.00	2,022.00
Powlett Project	9,315.00	5,166.63	4,148.37
Three Creeks Landcare Group	4,500.00	1,000.00	3,500.00
Wonthaggi Urban Landcare Group	435.00	510.00	(75.00)
Total Project Management/Network Services	58,861.98	20,141.63	38,720.35
Fee for Service - Administration	9,592.50	500.00	9,092.50
Fee for Service - Nursery	60,688.50	49,925.74	10,762.76
Fee for Service - Operational	53,070.18	30,829.86	22,240.32
Fee for Service - River Garden	10.00	-	10.00
Fee for Service - Works Crew	421,759.69	275,318.84	146,440.85
Total Fee for Service	545,120.87	356,574.44	188,546.43
Interest Income	3,020.71	6,543.19	(3,522.48)
Sundry/Other Income	880.78	3,929.73	(3,048.95)
JobKeeper Income	-	327,000.00	(327,000.00)
Total Other Income	3,901.49	337,472.92	(333,571.43)
TOTAL INCOME PER P&L	1,820,451.57	1,756,546.17	63,905.40
Movement in Project Balances			
Opening Project Balances	700,817.00	241,763.00	459,054.00
Net income received into project accounts	429,823.00	617,750.00	(187,927.00)
Expenses paid out of project accounts	(384,353.00)	(158,696.00)	(225,657.00)
Closing Project Balances	(746,287.00)	(700,817.00)	(45,470.00)
Net Project Balances	-	-	-
Income per P&L	1,820,451.57	1,756,546.17	63,905.40
Add expenses paid out of project accounts	384,353.00	158,696.00	225,657.00
TOTAL INCOME PER FINANCIAL REPORT	2,204,804.57	1,915,242.17	289,562.40

Bass Coast Landcare Network
Profit & Loss
Financial Year ended 30 June 2022

	Jul 21 - Jun 22	Jul 20 - Jun 21	\$ Change
Administration Expenses			
Asset & Equipment Purchases	22,316.74	13,898.69	8,418.05
Audit & Accounting Fees	4,200.00	4,200.00	-
Bank Charges	332.27	279.54	52.73
Board/Governance Charges	12,604.43	10,408.72	2,195.71
Computer Expenses	23,184.68	19,076.68	4,108.00
Depreciation	56,900.45	44,321.63	12,578.82
Doubtful Debts Expense	800.00	(1,022.50)	1,822.50
Insurance - General	16,314.15	11,317.46	4,996.69
Member/Group Support Ser	229.09	181.82	47.27
Office Expenses	7,519.01	6,961.33	557.68
Repairs & Maintenance	19,332.17	6,845.10	12,487.07
Sundry Expenses	1,404.00	1,428.19	(24.19)
Telephone & Internet	8,868.47	9,828.26	(959.79)
Total Administration Expenses	174,005.46	127,724.92	46,280.54
Operating Expenses			
Works Crew Expenses	86,565.62	49,783.42	36,782.20
Advertising & Promotion	1,278.23	1,417.09	(138.86)
Contractors/Consultants	17,610.47	8,518.50	9,091.97
Event Expenses	3,761.52	2,847.44	914.08
Weed Control	115.97	-	115.97
Total Operating Expenses	109,331.81	62,566.45	46,765.36
Salaries & Wages			
Wage payments	1,252,973.63	1,120,316.75	132,656.88
Superannuation/On costs	122,449.67	105,231.94	17,217.73
Paid Parental Leave Reimbursement	0.00	(13,570.20)	13,570.20
Total Salaries & Wages	1,375,423.30	1,211,978.49	163,444.81
Other Employment Costs			
FBT Expense	1,650.58	-	1,650.58
Health & Safety	16,112.66	10,150.68	5,961.98
Medical Costs	816.59	68.41	748.18
Motor Vehicle Expenses	62,136.95	48,193.10	13,943.85
Phone/Internet Allowance	1,547.27	1,481.81	65.46
Recruitment	1,703.46	-	1,703.46
Travel km Reimbursment	12,378.18	7,602.91	4,775.27
Travel - Other	2,411.16	258.94	2,152.22
Staff Amenities	729.60	338.64	390.96
Staff Clothing/Uniforms	6,446.66	3,249.12	3,197.54
Training & Development	37,498.27	15,694.10	21,804.17
Workcover Insurance	9,780.48	9,829.36	(48.88)
Total Other Employment Costs	153,211.86	96,867.07	56,344.79
Other Expenses			
Interest Expense	(450.90)	744.29	(1,195.19)
Loss on Disposal of Assets	-	1,388.64	(1,388.64)
Total Other Expenses	(450.90)	2,132.93	(2,583.83)
Total expenses per P&L	1,811,521.53	1,501,269.86	310,251.67
Add expenses paid out of project accounts	384,353.00	158,696.00	225,657.00
TOTAL EXPENSES PER FINANCIAL REPORT	2,195,874.53	1,659,965.86	535,908.67
Net Surplus per financial report	8,930.04	255,276.31	(246,346.27)

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK

PUBLIC FUND

ABN: 13 136 824 392

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK PUBLIC FUND
ABN: 13 136 824 392

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
Donations received	3,720	420
Interest received	1	4
Total income	3,721	424
 Audit fee	 250	 250
Bank fees	107	12
Event expenses	129	80
Total operating expenses	486	342
 Operating surplus	 3,235	 82
 Less grants provided	 -	 -
 Net surplus	 3,235	 82

BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2022

Bendigo Bank account	13,105	13,169
Trade receivables	3,299	-
GST receivable	4	4
Total current assets	16,408	13,173
 Trade creditors	 -	 -
Total current liabilities	-	-
 NET ASSETS	 16,408	 13,173
 Opening balance equity	 13,173	 13,091
Current year surplus	3,235	82
TOTAL EQUITY	16,408	13,173

This financial report should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK PUBLIC FUND
ABN: 13 136 824 392

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Commonwealth Government Department of the Environment as the fund is listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations as a Deductible Gift Recipient. The trustees have determined that the fund is not a reporting entity.

Basis of preparation

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the trustees have determined are appropriate to meet the financial requirements of the Department of the Environment. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated.

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Accounting policies

a. Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under section 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

b. Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are treated as an expense item when incurred.

c. Revenue

All revenue is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

d. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The fund is registered for GST using the registration of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc. Income, expenditure and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation office (ATO).

e. Comparative Figures

Where applicable, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

f. Rounding

Figures are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK PUBLIC FUND
ABN: 13 136 824 392

STATEMENT BY THE TRUSTEES

The trustees have determined that the Public Fund is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial report.

In the opinion of the trustees the financial report as set out on page 1 to 3:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund as at 30 June 2022 and its' performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the trustees and is signed for and on behalf of the trustees by:

Peter Mulherin
Trustee

Jon Hauser
Trustee

25 October 2022



Jonathan
Hauser

Digitally signed by Jonathan Hauser
DN: cn=Jonathan Hauser, o=Xcheque Pty Ltd, ou, email=jon@xcheque.com, c=AU
Date: 2022.10.24 11:50:41 +11'00'

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK PUBLIC FUND**

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2022, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the Trustees.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report, in all material respects, gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund at 30 June 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the "Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Department of the Environment as a Deductible Gift Recipient* entity. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The trustees of the Fund are responsible for other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Fund's annual report for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Trustees for the Financial Report

The Trustees of the Fund are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Department of the Environment as a Deductible Gift Recipient* entity. This responsibility also includes such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, other the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and relates disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify from our audit.

CARDELL ASSURANCE & AUDIT



Lyndal J. McKenzie
3A Billson Street
WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

31 October 2022