

# Annual Report 2020 - 2021



Bass Coast  
**Landcare**  
Network



***We acknowledge the Traditional Owners,  
the Bunurong and the Boonwurung,  
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.***



## **Welcome from the Chair**

**Ric Oldham**

*As we stand well placed and resilient to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future, we do so in the knowledge that our true engine room is in the power and leverage of our volunteers from the plant nursery into the Board Room.*





## BCLN Board Executive

**The Chair** – Ric Oldham

**Deputy Chair** – Bret Dodd

**Treasurer** – Roger Lee

**Secretary** – Linda Bowden

## Portfolio Holders

**West Gippsland CMA** – Paul Spiers

**Port Phillip and Western Port CMA** – Ric Oldham

**Audit and Finance** – Don Creed, Bret Dodd, Roger Lee, John Hauser, David Bateman

**Risk and Compliance** – Ric Oldham, Linda Bowden, David Bateman

**People Culture and Capability Committee** – Bret Dodd, Jean Coffey, Daryl Hook, David Bateman, Lisa Wangman

## Groups and Representatives

**Bass Valley** – Jean Coffey

**3 Creeks** – Nick Sibly

**Anderson Inlet** – Daryl Hook

**French Island** – Linda Bowden

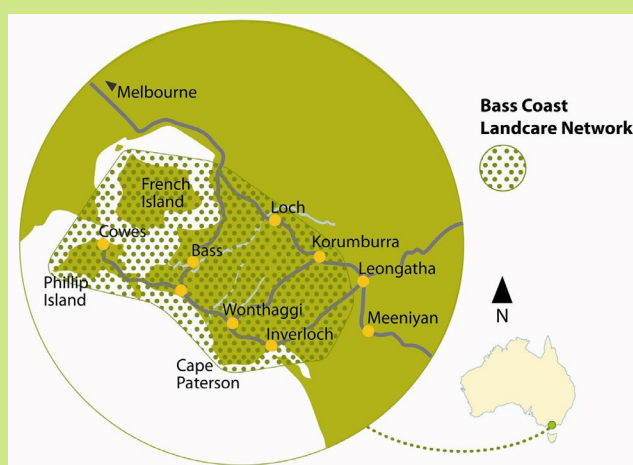
**Kongwak** – Bill Irving

**Korumburra** – Don Creed

**Phillip Island** – Jarryd Minahan

**Powlett Project** – Paul Spiers

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## Background and History

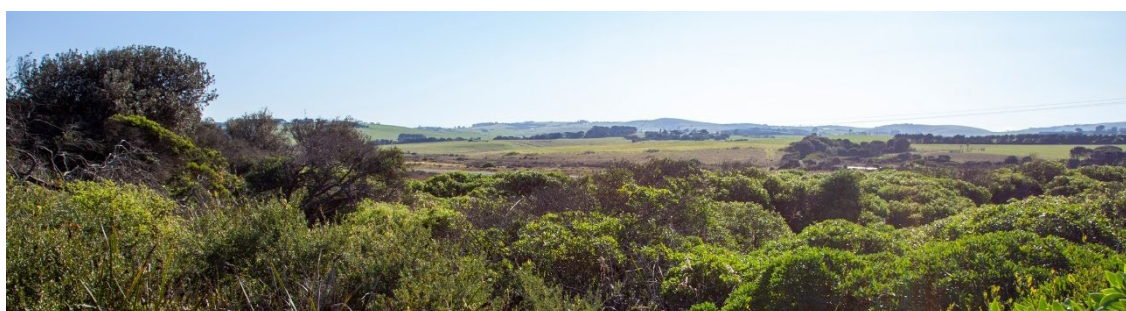
The Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) was formed in 2003 as an affiliation of the Landcare Groups in the region, enabling them to better position themselves for investment from government, local, state, federal and corporate programs. Sixty percent of the 1,400 rural properties in the Network area are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

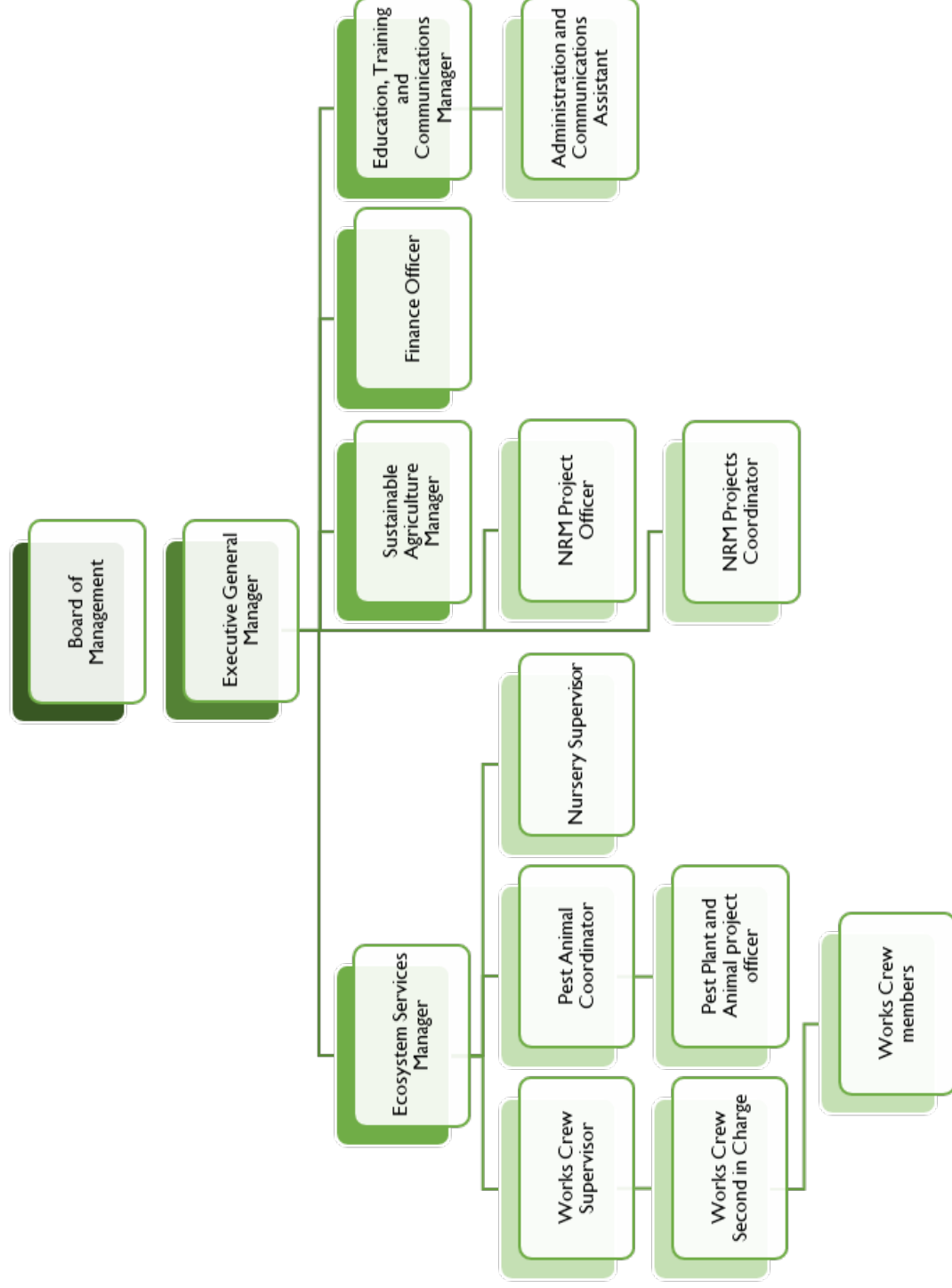
#### Legal Conformance

- 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.



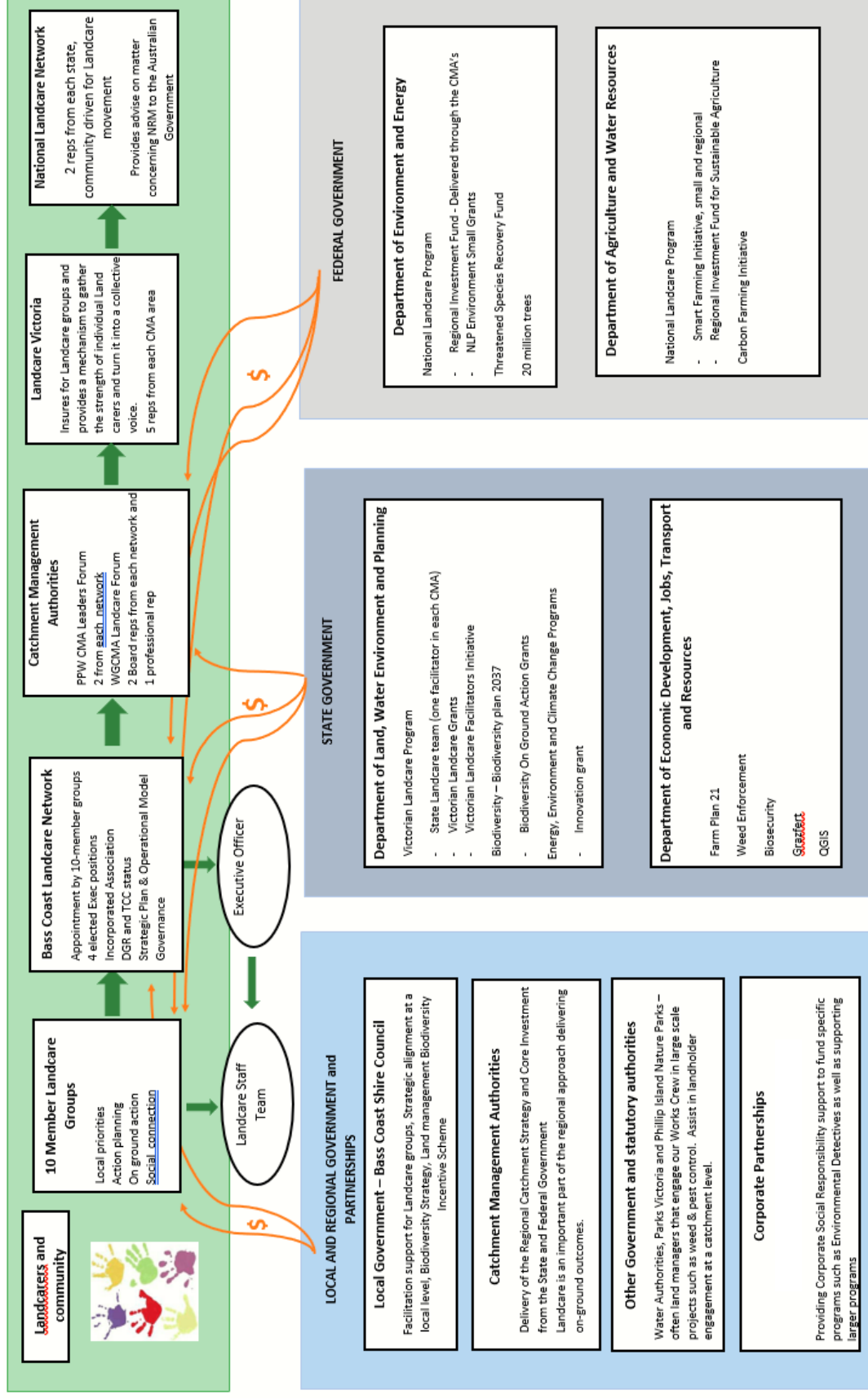


# BCLN Organisation Structure





# Landcare Framework in Australia



## Chair's Report

### Ric Oldham

The past year has seen several challenges test our resolve, none greater than the Covid 19 Pandemic and the restrictions imposed on our business, freedoms of movement, personal connections, and without the many simple pleasures of everyday life.

Through this time, we have shown exceptional resilience, maintaining our core on ground operational services, and continuing to provide education programs throughout the entire year albeit delivered remotely.



Our management team has done a tremendous job to stay connected and indeed united whilst ensuring our essential services teams continued to perform safely and productively throughout the entire year.

As we emerge from the restrictions and learn to navigate life with Covid, we will do so with stronger communication and leadership skills and indeed an enhanced care and respect for all staff, employees and member volunteers.

Landcare in post Covid lockdown provides the perfect opportunity for ongoing reconnection with country, the natural environment and the associated social interactions and health benefits. We have a perfect opportunity to grow and strengthen the membership base as we experience an increased desire to live in regional areas. We already see new farmers calling the Bass Coast home, which provides opportunities for those farming families to benefit from the significant and highly valued regenerative agricultural training resources provided by BCLN.

Renewal this year of our ongoing partnership with the Bass Coast Shire remains a vital enabler delivering across the shire enhanced biodiversity, roadside weed management, farming for climate and sustainability initiatives.

Staying grounded to our Landcare roots by ensuring we continue to take a leadership role in the built environ sustainability and our regenerative agricultural sector whilst continuing to generate, maintain and protect our healthy biodiverse landscapes and waterways for generations to come is at the core of our very reason for being.

I thank our staff for their continued commitment and professional endeavours to advance the many worthwhile Natural Resource, Sustainable Agriculture and External Services projects as they prepare us to embrace the future opportunities and challenges.

I also acknowledge the appointment of Linda Bowden (French Island) as Secretary and thank the Board, the Executive Officers and associated Sub Committee's for their diligence and commitment to the governance of the BCLN. We are fortunate to have a blend of new and past serving Board members that provide stability, continuity, and experience. The past year or so has also seen health challenges for three of our Board Members. I extend our sincere and best



wishes to Anna Gloria (Past Secretary), Bret Dodd (Vice Chair) and Paul Speirs (Board Member Powlett Project).

Living the values of trust and respect within our connected community has never been more important post Covid. Involving, nurturing, protecting, and showing the way to our children and young landcarers and within an operational environment of learning, good conduct and “zero harm” remain the enabling corner stones of our strategic intent.

As we stand well placed and resilient to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future we do so in the knowledge that our true engine room is in the power and leverage of our volunteers from the seed bank into the Board Room.

**Ric Oldham**

Chair – Bass Coast Landcare Network



## Treasurer's Report

Roger Lee

The budgeting process is the principal mechanism we use to measure the performance of the Network. This year, despite Covid restrictions, the Network's management and staff found a way to operate safely and effectively to produce a very satisfactory financial result that was very close to budget.

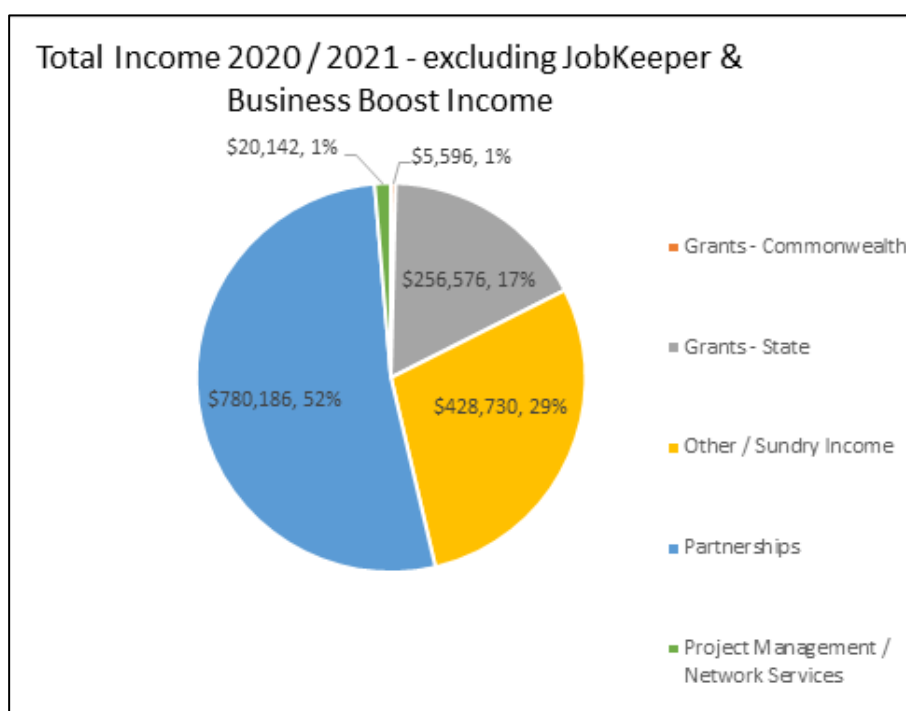
### Profit & Loss

The accounts in the Annual Report state that BCLN operations resulted in a deficit of \$71,723 for 20/21 year. However, further clarification is required to better understand the financial performance that underlies this result. BCLN's management reporting indicates that the underlying financial performance for the year is actually a profit of \$46,729.

The difference is due to the accounting standard (AASBI058) introduced last year by the Australian Accounting Standards Board to deal with funds received from the government's JobKeeper and Cash Flow Boost scheme. This standard creates a timing difference or a mismatch of income and related expenses. JobKeeper funds received in the previous year must be recognised as income in that financial year but the associated costs, such as wage top-up payments, are incurred this financial year. Over the two reporting periods the impact cancels out and the outcome is the same. For the purposes of monitoring the Network's true performance against budget the impact of JobKeeper is removed from the management financial reports.

Total income for the year was \$1.491M which exceeded budget by about 8.6%. Corresponding expenses of \$1.444M also exceeded budget by about the same amount so the consequential profit of \$47,000 for the year almost exactly matched the budgeted surplus.

The network received \$327,000 in government JobKeeper support and, like last year, these receipts were treated as income in accordance with accounting standards (AASBI058). The net result was a substantial surplus for 20/21 of \$255,277, boosting the Network's total reserves to a healthy \$1.376M.





During the year the board and management monitors the performance of BCLN by looking at the following operational areas. The percentage of total revenue figures give an indication of the relative size of each area.

Whilst the Works Crew records by far the largest portion of revenue, it should be understood that the Administration and Operational areas provides crucial support and attracts funding that enables the Works Crew to undertake 63% of its billable work. The remaining 37% (\$332.4K) is fee for service income generated by the Works Crew and contributes significantly to the overall profitability of the Network.

<b>Administration</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
<b>Operations</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
<b>Works Crew</b>	<b>60.4%</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
<b>River Garden (cost centre only)</b>	<b>0%</b>

The Nursery continues to perform well and demonstrate potential for future growth. Accordingly, the board has approved a number of requests for investment in plant and equipment to build infrastructure and capacity for the nursery.

Overall expenditure was well contained. There were some overspends during the year including Salaries and Wages associated with JobKeeper and leave accruals. The overspends were compensated to some extent by underspends in other areas.

## The Balance Sheet

The balance sheet reflects a Network that is in very sound financial position. The accounts stand up to all measures of financial viability. A working capital ratio of 2.1 is considered very healthy. Accounts receivables are 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.

## What's ahead

The budget for 21/22 was approved by the board in May 21. It was put together by the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee with much help from the EGM (Dave) and the Finance Officer (Cheryl) and input from staff. Formulating a well-founded, achievable budget is essential for the good governance of every organisation but is particularly difficult for an organisation reliant on precarious funding from external sources. It requires management and staff to look ahead to identify funding opportunities up to 12 months or more in advance. Operating expenses and capital purchases must also be anticipated. The 21/22 budget therefore incorporates mix of funding sources with different levels of certainty that aims to generate total income for the 21/22 year of \$1.543M (3.5% higher than 20/21 budget) and total expenses of \$1.48M (2.5% higher than 20/21 budget). This will produce a small surplus of \$63,000.

The Network staff must be commended for their success in winning some crucial grant opportunities, in particular, the Bass Coast Shire Council Biolinks tender and multiple Biodiversity on ground action grants. These grants will go a long way to filling the funding gap left by the ending of the Bunurong BRP Project.

As always my role of Treasurer has been ably assisted by Dave and Cheryl throughout the year. I thank them for their dedication and professional work. Thankyou also to the expert advice and assistance provided by the members of the Audit & Finance team Bret Dodd, Don Creed, and Jon Hauser.

# Executive General Manager Report

David Bateman

Bass Coast Landcare Network has had another fantastic year delivering a broad range of on-ground works, educational activities, sustainable agricultural programs and facilitation of our Landcare groups.

This year we planted just over 211,000 plants on properties in our region, which was a fantastic result considering the impacts of Covid 19 on the 2020/2021 planting season. Our key partner, Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC), has again been a great supporter of BCLN. Through our shared goals and development of our new MOU, we have delivered great results for both organisations. BCLN successfully tendered for the BCSC Biolinks project, which is a major win for BCLN. The delivery of the tender will be over a 3-year period resulting in over 300,000 plants in the ground.



A key achievement this year was the establishment of our MOU with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. This MOU establishes commitment to a mutually beneficial relationship based upon the goals and aspirations of the Bunurong people and the BCLN.

We also had the major win of a \$200,000 project thanks to a chance meeting and excellent project pitch from Lisa Wangman to reinvigorate our Environmental Detectives Program through the State Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Funding. This project will deliver a major boost to our Local schools, once again allowing them to work with Lisa and the team on Environmental detectives activities and activities at our River Garden.

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. The Works Crew and Operational team are classed authorised workers, which has allowed the team to continue to operate under a Covid Safe plan over the past 12 months.



*BCLN Staff Team*

It has been extremely difficult to run community events and planting days due to the pandemic, so this year unfortunately, there is a large reduction in volunteer hours, however our on-ground Works Crew and Operational staff have stepped up to the plate and delivered a great deal of important Landcare work.



Our Landcare groups have also done an exceptional job squeezing in some scaled down community plantings and events when restrictions allowed and have kept in contact through online meetings and workshops.



*BCLN Board and Staff Bandicoot night*

Our BCLN Board has been a great support to the staff team and has completed some really important work including; updating our BCLN Constitution and Rules of Association, completing a HR and Salary Benchmarking project, and forming an Executive Sub-Committee just to name a few important actions. The Executive Sub-Committee were a fantastic help with both the Biolinks Tender and the Safe Havens Tender, providing skilled expertise and oversight for both projects.

With the departure of our People and Culture Manager in Feb 2019, our People Culture and Capability Committee have really stepped up to support me with any People and Culture issues over the past 12 months. I would like to acknowledge Bret Dodd, Jean Coffey and Daryl Hook for their fantastic support and advice. We were also lucky enough to have Belinda Brennan from West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to help us with improving our staff performance evaluations and the update of our Constitution and Rules of Association. Belinda provided many hours of support to the People Culture and Capability Committee.



*Daryl Hook and Jean Coffey at the Anderson Inlet Landcare Farm Walk*

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, Westernport Water and Phillip Island Nature Parks for their support. I would also like to acknowledge our new partners, Liminal Wellbeing and TUROSI. I am proud of what our staff team, BCLN Board and volunteers have achieved this year 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. Well done.

# People Culture and Capability Report

## Staff Movements

The 20/21 year has been active. A key recruitment was Jason McCracken, who replaced Chantelle Geissler as Rabbit / Animal Pest Officer. Jason formerly worked for Phillip Island Nature Park and Working for Victoria team. Jason has worked diligently, engaging with our key partners PINP and BCSC, handling all our pest animal enquires and running our rabbit program in partnership with PINP. Jason's work in delivering the rabbit program was so good that the PINP extended the program into the new 21/22 year. Jason's bright personality helped lift the team's spirits through the ups and downs of this challenging year.



*Jason McCracken*

Our Communications and Administration Assistant, Anna Brayley welcomed her first child, Grace into the world. Anna took maternity leave for most of the year, looking after Grace. Holly Gurling joined us to fill Anna's role while on leave. Holly previously worked with CERES in Melbourne and brought a high level of communications experience and a fantastic personality to our team. Holly was with BCLN for seven months before taking a role with the Open Food Network.



*Anna Brayley and Grace*

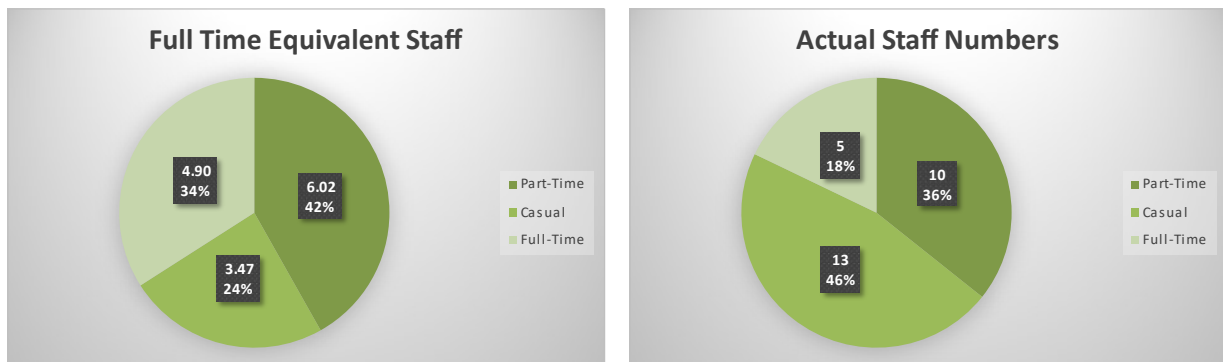


*Holly Gurling*

Luke Phillips, previously second in charge of the Works Crew took the opportunity to step into the role for the remaining six weeks until Anna's return. Luke took on the role with great enthusiasm. We recruited some great new casual staff members including Mickey Gaynor, Siobhan Kingslow, and Jack Harriss. BCLN is fortunate to have these passionate, well-qualified people.



## Statistics



Employee Numbers at 30 June 2021			
	Female	Male	Total
Casual	4	9	13
Full-Time	0	5	5
Part-Time	6	4	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>

## Staff Team Building Trip

The entire BCLN team of 20 including all casual staff, travelled to Wilsons Promontory for a team building and training workshop in May. The trip was multi-purpose:

- building relationships between our teams,
- getting to know each other better,
- to get away from the work environment while enjoying the outdoors,
- to undertake First Aid and Self Care training.



We were fortunate to receive a donation from the WGCMA via Belinda Brennan, helping to substantially cover costs involved with the Self Care training.

We spent two full days at the Prom. This time was jam-packed with training, a team bushwalk and a group surf at Norman Bay. The team had a great time cooking meals together and getting away from usual life routines. We believe it is vitally important that we continue to invest in the great people we have working with us, by providing training opportunities and team building activities to ensure we enhance our close team culture.



## 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,
- Self-Care Training,
- Leadership,
- Chemical endorsement,
- Pest animal control 1080,
- Mental health first aid,
- Event Management,
- Digital storytelling Video production.

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.



*Paul and Mark undertaking First Aid training*

## Other

A review and update of the BCLN Constitution was undertaken early in the 20/21 year. We are indebted to Belinda Brennan from West Gippsland CMA for her guidance and expertise in steering this process. Note that the revised Constitution was adopted by the members at the AGM in December 2020.

Belinda has also assisted in updating and revising some position descriptions – most importantly that of the EGM. Prior to the end the 20/21 year, a Human Resources review was undertaken by an external consultant; this has since been completed.

The PCC Committee has met at least monthly through the year with the substantial assistance and efforts of both Dave Bateman and Lisa Wangman.

## 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 of our partners, volunteers, and other stakeholders.

Special thanks go to all our volunteers, dedicated staff, and everyone else who has assisted People Culture and Capability Committee for work 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 define 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 objective of the Public Fund is to support the BCLN's environmental purposes with a focus on community assets (built or purchased). The fund is reliant on donations from individuals and organisations and is always interested to talk about ways they might support and be involved for the wider community benefit. We aim to raise funds to finance projects that advance, protect and regenerate the natural environment, biodiversity and people's access and enjoyment of it.

The 2020/21 financial year was relatively quiet given rolling lockdowns. This hindered attempts to bring engagement and resources into the fund and on occasion prevented our trustee meetings.

As noted in last years report, Ian James our chairman, stepped aside at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees wish to recognise his positive attitude, generosity of time and professionalism in undertaking his duties and representing us. Ian, thank you for your years of involvement and jolly good company and even hospitality when meeting at your hilltop abode. Bravo, we look forward to reporting progress!

So great were Ian's shoes we needed two new sets of feet to fill them! In March we welcomed Lew Potter, a long standing member of Landcare and Peter Nuttman as new Trustees to the fund. Peter is a member and secretary of 3 Creeks Landcare group with land in Woolamai adjacent to the Rail Trail that he is re-vegetating. A welcome lunch of meat pies and doughnuts was held after our meeting at Lew Potters house.

Speaking of doughnuts, earlier in the year we had a brief introduction to Doughnut Economics by an enthusiast (me) at one of our meetings. The doughnut principle is that we must learn to manage to meet the needs of us all within the resource means of the planet. There is a movement in Melbourne - Regen Melbourne looking for rural collaborations to bring circular economy and doughnut economics to rural communities. There are opportunities to explore this in the coming year with the lifting of lockdown.

### Some projects underway:

The Kongwak Pioneer Reserve was signed off with positive feedback and with increased use by walkers.

The Bass River Trail Canoeing & Walking Track is an ambitious and potentially high value project with a number of elements bringing in multiple stakeholders and understandably requires plenty of planning and coordination. The project extends from the Bass township to Western Port Bay. The proposed scope includes restoration of a launching place at Bass Bridge which has succumbed to



time, floods and lack of TLC. It will be restored as a launching ramp for recreational boats to travel down to Westernport and back. Work has been undertaken in collaboration with Melbourne Water to investigate what is required to open up the river and provide more access and amenity. Some public land is available for access to the river but much is held in private hands with titles running to the riverbank. This creates some barriers to the development of a walking



track between Bass to Westernport. Opportunities for some landings on public land are offered for fishing, picnics and interpretation etc. but principally water activities will predominate. Further discussion with stakeholders upstream of the Bass bridge may offer scope for a walking track and interpretation and signage. A project of this scope and complexity would be ideal for the Public Fund and raise our profile for funding opportunities and stake holders engagement.

A carbon offset project discussed with BCLN raised the question of tax deductible donations which is being considered with suitable professional advice to determine involvement by the Public Fund within our Charitable Trust rules. Opportunities of this type, where technologies advance landholder opportunities, will grow and with recent net-zero commitments, the Public Fund may offer greater involvement should this be an avenue of fundraising.



Some other points of inquiry included the implications of global, and so market and public shifts towards net-zero policy, together with the demand that creates for corporate and private funding opportunities which grow for the preservation and restoration of natural systems.

To this end it was decided to revisit the community over the coming year as a town hall style consultation to build engagement and also to align activities to community wishes and seek other opportunities that meet the public fund agenda.

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, bequest, grants and donations.

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



## Successful grant applications and Major Contracts

Funding Source	Amount	Grants Included
Coastcare Victoria	\$9,170	Bass Valley CoastCare
Melbourne Water	\$48,023	Stream frontage contract
Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)	\$23,000	Ramsar Project 2021
PPWCMA	\$23,000	Reel Big Fish (Year 1)
Bass Coast Shire Council	\$60,000	Biolinks
Bass Coast Shire Council	\$350,000	Biolinks Tender (Year 1)
Bass Coast Shire Council	\$92,500	MOU
Bass Coast Shire Council Contracts	\$114,896	Roadside weed contracts, rail trails and other small contracts
Bass Coast Shire Council, Climate adaptation Plan	\$20,000	'Future Homes, Farms and Festivals for 2040' Project support
DELWP – Supporting our regions to adapt program	\$24,545	'Future Homes Farms and Festivals for 2040' (Milestone 2&3 payments only \$53,636 total)
DELWP Distinctive areas and Landscapes program	\$200,000	'Place Based Education' Tours, Environmental Detectives, River Garden Education Shelter
VicHealth	\$49,994	River Garden Kids, River Garden Little Kids and River Garden Blitz days
Bass Coast Community Foundation	\$1,450	Women for Change Grants - Contribution to Women on Farms Series
Highways and Byways	\$1,350	Regeneration with Landcare Day
Westernport Water Community grants	\$1,000	Sponsorship for the Sustainability Festival
Bass Coast Tree Care	\$1000	Arborists for Forests Program
Phillip Island Nature Parks	\$25,000	Rabbit officer position
Westernport Water	\$55,000	MOU Contract works
South Gippsland Landcare Network	\$241,000	BRP Fox Control project
Parks Victoria	\$36,202	Soft jaw trapping
Holcim	\$9585	Contract works

## Strong communities engaged and connected through Landcare

### Activity Days

Date	Name	Location	Description	Attendance
<b>Weekly</b>	Nursery Group	Bass	Group Activity	12
<b>Weekly Jan-June</b>	Interchange Group	River Garden	Group Activity	10
<b>24/6/20</b>	BCAL Horticulture Students tour, induction, pruning day	River Garden	Training Day	6
<b>4/7/20</b>	Community Planting Day - Travis Lukies	Korumburra	Planting Day	12
<b>14/7/20</b>	Community planting day – Ventnor Common	Ventnor	Planting Day	20
<b>16/7/20</b>	Kongwak Ellipak Discussion Group	Online webinar	Discussion Group	13
<b>16/7/20</b>	BCAL Horticulture Students Espalier pruning day	River Garden	Training Day	6
<b>7/8/20</b>	Bass Coast Food Collective Meeting	Online	Meeting	8
<b>13/8/20</b>	Kongwak Ellipak Discussion Group	Online webinar	Discussion Group	12
<b>17/9/20</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion Group session 1	Online webinar	Discussion Group	18
<b>1/10/20</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion Group session 2	Online webinar	Discussion Group	18
<b>8/10/20</b>	Kongwak Ellipak Discussion Group	Online webinar	Discussion Group	11
<b>9/10/20</b>	Growing Southern Gippsland – Waste&Energy	Online	Online Field Day Webinar	42
<b>29/10/20</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion group- Weeds and pests.	Online webinar	Discussion Group	30
<b>5/11/20</b>	Growing Southern Gippsland - Disruptive technology and agriculture	Online	Online Field Day	17
<b>9/11/20</b>	Website training for Groups	Bass	Training Day	3
<b>18/11/20</b>	BCAL Horticulture Students Garden bed building	River Garden	Training Day	6
<b>27/11/20</b>	Nursery Group - Royal Botanic Gardens	Cranbourne	Training day	12
<b>5/12/20</b>	BCLN AGM	Gurdies winery	Meeting/ presentations	60
<b>9/12/20</b>	Future Homes Future Farms 2040 - webinar 1. Carbon on Farms.	Online	Online Field Day Webinar	19



<b>10/12/20</b>	Kongwak Ellipak Discussion Group	Online Webinar	Discussion Group	8
<b>16/12/20</b>	Future Homes Future Farms 2040 - webinar 2. Carbon on Farms.	Online	Online Field Day Webinar	20
<b>19/12/20</b>	Mangrove Planting Day - Bass Valley Coastcare	Queensferry	Planting Day	15
<b>27/1/21</b>	Wires / LAL bushfire recovery - seed collecting	Grantville	Seed Collecting	8
<b>11/2/21</b>	Kongwak Ellipak Discussion Group	On-farm Mornington Peninsula	Discussion Group Farm Visit	14
<b>18/2/21</b>	Bass Coast Food Collective Meeting	Online	Meeting	8
<b>27/2/21</b>	Geocaching Group River Garden Blitz	River garden	Working bee	15
<b>4/3/21</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion Group - Composting on Farm	On-Farm Tarwin Lower	Discussion Group Farm Visit	31
<b>4/3/21</b>	Bass Coast Food Collective Meeting	Online	Meeting	8
<b>13/3/21</b>	River garden Blitz	River Garden	Working Bee	8
<b>23/3/21</b>	VCAL Leongatha Secondary River Garden Blitz	River Garden	Working bee/training	28
<b>8/4/21</b>	Kongwak Ellipak Discussion Group	Online webinar	Discussion Group	12
<b>10/4/21</b>	River Garden Blitz/Family fun day – Compost & creative upcycling, Ric Coleman	River Garden	Working bee/training	6
<b>22/4/21</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion Group - Regenerative Business Management Session 1.	Online webinar	Discussion Group	24
<b>26/4/21</b>	VCAL St. Bedes College River Garden Blitz	River Garden	Working bee/training	22
<b>28/4/21</b>	Dung beetle nursery <i>b. bison</i> Webinar	Online	Online Webinar	5
<b>29/4/21</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion Group - Regenerative Business Management Session 2.	Online webinar	Discussion Group	24
<b>29/4/21</b>	Bass Coast Food Collective Meeting	Online	Meeting	8

<b>3/5/21</b>	Future Home and Farms 2040 - Water Management Field Day.	On-Farm Woodleigh	Field Day	40
<b>3/5/21</b>	VCAL St. Bedes College River Garden Blitz	River Garden	Working bee/training	22
<b>6/5/21</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion Group - Regenerative Business Management Session 3.	Online webinar	Discussion Group	22
<b>21/5/21</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion Group - Natural Capital Accounting: Soils.	On-Farm Moyarra	Discussion Group Farm Visit	12
<b>22/5/21</b>	River garden Blitz	River Garden	Working Bee	4
<b>24/5/21</b>	Welcome Garden Visit training Phillip Island Landcare Group	San Remo	Training Day	8
<b>27/5/21</b>	Welcome Garden Visit training Phillip Island Landcare Group	Surf Beach	Training Day	10
<b>28/5/21</b>	Smart Farming in Westernport- Regenerative Grazing mgt Field Day	Online	Online Field Day Webinar	32
<b>17/6/21</b>	Kongwak Ellipak Discussion Group	Online webinar	Discussion Group	11
<b>18/6/21</b>	Dung beetle nursery installation and release	Bass	Field Day	4
<b>18/6/21</b>	Wires / LAL bushfire recovery – planting day	Grantville	Planting Day	4
<b>18/6/21</b>	Regenerative Agriculture Discussion Group - Natural Capital Accounting: Vegetation.	On-Farm Archies Creek	Discussion Group Farm Visit	14
<b>19/6/21</b>	Community planting day – Kym Plant	Surf Beach	Planting Day	50
<b>26/6/21</b>	Community planting day – Jeffries farm	Ventnor	Planting Day	25





## Group President Reports

### Powlett Project – Paul Speirs

A tumultuous year for all community groups, with limited opportunity for social interaction, on-ground participation and face-to-face meetings. Spirits were not lost however, and we are looking forward to moving toward increased engagement with the Powlett Project community in the year to come.

Support through the Biolinks project, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Victorian Landcare Grants enabled restoration activities to persist through these times. Core activities of the year included removing stock and weeds from waterways, rehabilitating landslips, protecting remnant vegetation and revegetating the tributaries of the catchment.

These activities were carried out by BCLN's Works Crew, with support from landholders and the Working for Victoria (Bass Coast Shire Council) team. An achievement of 24,800 plants and 5,106m of fencing is not to go unrecognised as a fantastic effort in a year of uncertainty surrounding project delivery.

Thank you to our project funders in the Victorian State Government, Bass Coast Shire Council and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority for providing us with the opportunity to continue to do what we do best, improving the health of our Powlett Catchment.

Thank you to the BCLN staff, landholders and Working for Victoria team for getting the job done.

We are always excited about the prospect of investment through new sources, and thanks to our facilitator Dave Bateman, for continuing to put Powlett on the map and attract suitable funding opportunities.



*Planting at Cameron Corrigan's property*



*Removal of Cypress trees by WGCMA and revegetation of the Foster Creek by the Works Crew*

Total number of sites	Metres of stockproof fencing	Number of Indigenous plants	Total hectares revegetated	Total ha of remnant enhancement/weed control
<b>7</b>	<b>5,106m</b>	<b>25,600</b>	<b>12.8ha</b>	<b>1.75ha</b>

## Anderson Inlet – Daryl Hook

What a year! Lockdown, lockout, masks on, visitors NO!! Landcare get-togethers no, no, NO!

We did, however, cut and paint Pittosporums on the huge fenced off bank of Screw Creek in Inverloch. Thanks to Ken and Janice who, as is their custom, made us all welcome. Unfortunately, the job is only half done.

Our Places for Laces program is continuing to expand. Work on the Scott property was supervised by Marjorie and her brother. Six hectares of remnant forest was protected, 1 hectare was revegetated with 1km of fencing. So the Lace Monitors and other plants and animals have a richer place to live.

Many of our members have expressed interest in wildlife cameras to count the numbers across our area. Every time I see one, I am a bit scared and ready to back off. What a great indicator of the success of Landcare and a reminder that the job is far from finished.

Let's hope next year our social life will bounce back so we can bang on about the environment and even global warming. Big shout out to Dave and all the team at BCLN for all their support.

Daryl Hook

Total number of sites	Metres of stockproof fencing	Number of Indigenous plants	Total hectares revegetated	Total ha of remnant enhancement/weed control
1	1,992m	4,000	2ha	6ha



*Daryl Hook and Anderson inlet Landcare group members on his last farm walk on his farm just before Daryl handed the farm over.*



## Bass Valley – Lew Potter

The year has been, to say the least, interesting. On principle, I refuse to be drawn into commentary about pandemic restrictions, except to say we all need to appreciate the magnificent valley we live in, and the continuing need to preserve and protect the health giving environment which it offers.

To that end, our membership is evolving with the inclusion of many Urban insurgents. It is pleasing to note that most new landowners who have arrived in our valley have sought out and joined our Landcare family. It's just a shame that our socially educational plantings have been sterilised by the current restrictions.

That is not to say the plantings have not occurred. Indeed they have continued with a vengeance. The plants in the ground numbers have increased and the reclamation of damaged landscapes has also increased. This has been achieved thanks to the organisational fervour of Dave Bateman and the the whipcracking leadership of Mark Rowe. The Works Crew have done a sterling job of taking up the planting mantle, not to mention the maternal nurturing skills of Anna Spidens team at the nursery who prepare the seedlings for us.

When time permits, I feel we should all gather at the depot to savour the delights of that facility which is our pride and joy. On that note, the Pride of the fleet remains The Karl Russo experience, which will be a spectacular backdrop for our valley and there for all to ponder along the highway.



*Extensive planting at Karl Russo's property*

Our major sponsors remain virulent and supportive and while residential and commercial development encroaches, their sponsorship allows us to maintain our environmental equilibrium. We wait with baited breath on the outcome of the Holden Proving Grounds transition.



I mentioned our evolving membership, and note that there will be trepidation as some of our stalwarts cast themselves adrift from the mothership. This is merely an opportunity for new members to step up and take the helm as we power on. Our plans for membership scheme remains a winner and encourages landholders to get on board.

As usual thanks go to Secretary Mez and Treasurer Graham for staying the course and keeping us afloat.

I look forward to next year in anticipation of more educational events and appreciation of our past activities after a magnificent agricultural and environmental season in 2021.

Lew Potter

Total number of sites	Metres of stockproof fencing	Number of Indigenous plants	Total ha revegetated	Total ha of remnant enhancement/weed control
23	13,875m	118,100	59ha	29ha



*Bass Valley and 3 Creeks Landcare Groups Social Gathering at the Gurdies Winery in between lockdowns.*



## French Island – Judith Metcher

When I first started writing this I was a little depressed thinking of what we didn't achieve over the last year. No Wildflower Wander, Open Garden Day, visits from Vermont Secondary College, the Bellarine Landcare Group or the BCLN. But then as I read through the minutes we actually had a very good year! Mind you, at the November meeting, where we welcomed two new committee members, Kerrie Jorgensen and Michele Neesham, we were immediately back into the contentious and not so contentious issues of cat trapping, roadside weed management, koalas, Cape tulip, blackberries and a new one, Disa! Or African weedy orchid. Sometimes it feels like we are just caged mice going round and round on a wheel.

However, we were successful in obtaining two Coastcare Grants, 2020 and 2021, and another CVA grant (thank you Geoff Trease from the BCLN). So the revegetation, regeneration and weed work can continue on the Island.

We had a profitable day at the local Easter Market with our plant and coffee sales. Thank you Amilly for being the barista for the day. Holmesglen TAFE were able to visit in February and help out in the nursery. Unfortunately their later scheduled visit had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Our Rabbit Info day was interesting with a good practical demonstration at Ken and Helen Brown's property on how you can find the burrows which was followed by what can you then do!



*Delicious spread for the FOFI planting day*

Our community planting day with the Friends of French Island was scheduled and rescheduled but did eventually happen. It was a bittersweet day as Meredith Sherlock, a stalwart member of FOFI, had lost her battle with cancer earlier in the year. She will be sorely missed.

Julie Trezise resigned from the nursery due to work commitments to be replaced by Alan Pentland with Cindy Devonport our new third wheel. Julie's knowledge and enthusiasm at the nursery was highly appreciated by the rest of the staff and volunteers. However Glenys, Alan and Cindy are doing a great job, thus our excellent results at the nursery continue. What other nursery produces what we do with only two part-time staff and volunteers? And open for just three hours a week.

Another retirement is Scott Coutts from Parks. Scott has been attending our

Landcare meetings on a regular basis for some time now and it has been great to hear what Parks have been up to and to see how we can work together for the betterment of our island. We look forward to working with his replacement.

We are presently re-establishing our relationship with our wonderful little island school, Perseverance Primary School. Already they have helped out with planting down on the Coast and are presently establishing a frog bog at the school. We will be growing many of the plants that are required for this project.

Our Community Garden project is coming along slowly. Covid definitely hasn't helped. Nicky Pitkanen, a local Landscape Designer, has donated her skills in the planning of this. Anyone who has walked down to the tennis court will see the great retaining wall that was built by some wonderful volunteers. Planning is still underway designing our workshop as we were originally going to have a covered shipping container but unfortunately they are now twice the price! We haven't quite made up our mind on the name either. It is more than just a garden, more of a place where French Islanders can meet and relax in an outdoor setting that happens to have a nursery and is growing plants! Unfortunately our competition for naming the area didn't really produce many entries so our thinking caps are still on. Any ideas out there?



*A successful school planting day*

Regarding our AGM, having postponed it twice we are now hoping to have it on Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup> January. We normally have our "Start Up" then so we will be combining it and the AGM. Hopefully we will see a few of the new landowners as there have been quite a few properties change hands this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those wonderful people who have been such a support to me in my years as an ordinary committee member, Secretary, then President of French Island Landcare. It has been an amazing ride but its time I got off and gave others a go!

Judith Metcher

Total number of sites	Metres of stockproof fencing	Number of Indigenous plants	Total hectares revegetated	Total ha of remnant enhancement/weed control
9	2,820m	6,800	3.6ha	14ha



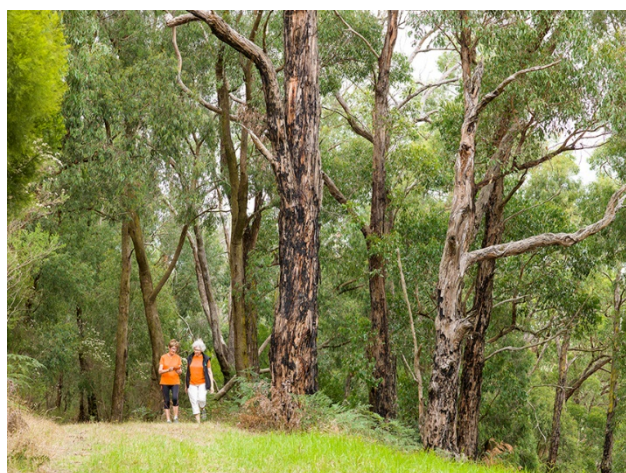
## Kongwak Hills – Grace Couchman

The Kongwak Hills Landcare Group (KHLG) continues to engage the Kongwak community in promoting both landcare and support of bioversity in farms, parklands, backyards and waterways.

The Kongwak Hills Landcare group has been in operation since 2012 and will be showcasing some of the projects that have occurred over the last 9 years by group members at the AGM this December. We will be highlighting the impact of landcare, our acquired wisdoms, and some of the challenges. KHLG has a steady membership of 30 households, and take pride in sharing the landcare load, good food and friendship.

Both 2020 and 2021 have delivered a range of stressors for KHLG with many cancelled events and transitions to online events and meetings. We have planted 2,800 plants from the new BCLN process of regular annual allocations to the group for use by all landholders, big or small. Another 32,350 plants have been planted by members using the Greening Australia funding source accessed by BCLN. New Biolinks projects are emerging which give the group an opportunity to focus on waterways in the Bass Coast area.

Recently, our group was successful in gaining a Victorian State Government Community Volunteer Action grant for strengthening environmental volunteering through the making, installation and monitoring of 120 nesting boxes for mammals and birds across 13 properties in the district. We are working closely with Wonthaggi Men's Shed who are doing a great job of producing 6 different types of boxes based on designs published in 2013 by the Maffra and District Landcare Network and the East Gippsland Landcare Network. This speaks loudly of our groups interest in promoting environmental diversity.



The pre-existing Geotour of the Pioneer Reserve has been upgraded so that the tour and all its audio content can be enjoyed together with Google Earth maps of each track in the Reserve providing details of length/distance in metres and elevations with attached track profiles in graphical display. The signage in the reserve has been improved and it serves as a great place to see local wildlife.

\Special thanks must go to outgoing president Jon Hauser, and outgoing secretaries Marg Hauser and Kate Davis. We thank Sue Mooney, our current secretary, Susan Pryde, our Treasurer, Susan Banks, our Honorary Social Secretary, and Bill Irving, our Board representative (with Susan Pryde standing in at times). We were sad to say goodbye to Lisa Wangman as our BCLN group facilitator due to her other very worthy BCLN commitments and welcomed Jason McCracken but now wish him well in a new role with Parks Vic.

Grace Couchman

Total number of sites	Metres of stockproof fencing	Number of Indigenous plants	Total hectares revegetated
1	420	8,480	4.24

## Korumburra – Melynda Dawson

This report ends up being more to do with what we could sneak in between the Covid 19 lockdowns and adhering to restrictions, along with the frustrations of organising and having to cancel events on the eve of them going ahead... one planting, one AGM and one function was all we could manage!

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 we had our only community planting for 2020 planting season, for the second year in a row at Travis Lukies property. It was a cold and misty morning, with about 12 volunteers turning up. Travis and his family had once again done a great job with months of preparation for his plantings, setting up the site with fencing, cutting a load of cypress pines down (see stumps in photos), to help enrich his waterways. The Lukies managed to get grants from BCLN and the CMA to make this large project happen. Geoff, our BCLN facilitator, estimated the small group of people planted around 1,200 of the 9,000 plants in a 1.5-2hr period, which is not a bad effort considering the weather and how muddy, slippery, and boggy parts of the planting site were.



*Seed collection with Geoff Trease*

We had our AGM in November, which we kept small. Our guest speaker was our facilitator Geoff Trease who is very knowledgeable with plant ID and seed collection. We walked around Outtrim Reserve as Geoff showed us plants to collect seed from, when the seed is viable, and how to store seed from each species of plant. Due to restrictions it was a low key morning tea event.



In February, Ian Starkey came and did a massive, knowledgeable, condensed session on propagation of our native/indigenous species. He spoke about different seed treatments (hot water, smoked water/water treatment). We learned about direct seeding methods, planting from cuttings. We had fun "pricking" too. Best of all, we were able to take home what we sowed, we could choose what seeds we sowed, so we had plants we wanted.

And that, my fellow Landcare people was the end of our events for 2020-2021 as lockdowns and more restrictions became the abnormally normal life. We had guest speakers and venues booked, all had to be cancelled.

We have had quite a few enquiries over Facebook to do with how to join, weed species and wanting knowledge in plant species and planting. With this came a few new members, which is always a pleasant thing, especially during these times.

We are thankful for the few times we were able to connect face-to-face. It was a slow, uneventful 12 months for Korumburra Landcare, though still connecting through emails and Facebook posts to keep everyone updated with online events run by BCLN and others.

I would personally like to thank Paul Calvert (Secretary), for he put a mammoth amount of work into organising a great guest speaker (which created lots of interest), only to have lockdowns cancel it. And to Marie and Don Creed (Vice President and Treasurer), once again without your guidance and knowledge of people, places, and Landcare experience, I would have struggled. Lastly to Geoff Trease, happy to step in as guest speaker when restrictions were changing constantly, and for answering all the emails from me and the new people I handballed his way.

Melynda Dawson



*Propagation with Ian Starkey*

Total number of sites	Metres of stockproof fencing	Number of Indigenous plants	Total hectares revegetated	Total ha of remnant enhancement/weed control
1	2,000m	12,000	6ha	1.57ha

## Phillip Island – David Rooks

Along with all other Landcare groups it was a difficult year from July 2020 to June 2021 with Covid restrictions hampering the ability to flourish. We did however manage to achieve some group activities and managed meetings online or at a local meeting hall, as opposed to the normal practice of someone's house.

Thanks to all the committee, BCLN staff and other helpers who aren't part of the committee but get involved in our groups' activities.



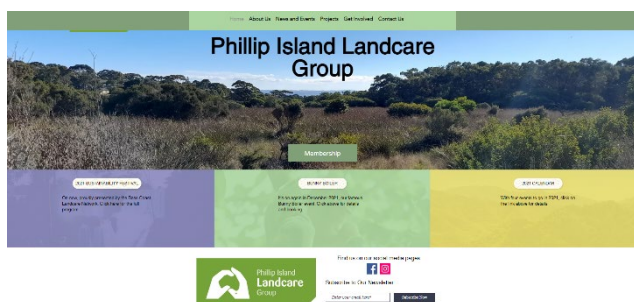
*Phillip Island Landcare Group Committee and Helpers*

In terms of staff contact, we've had great support from our group's contact, Lisa Wangman. Geoff Trease continues his love of our group for reveg programs via grant applications and project managing. We also have support from Jye Andersen now, who is our contact for Biolinks.

Highlights for this year include:

- Implementation of our CoastCare grant. Our Grant involves working with all CoastCare groups on the island and supporting them with an activity of their doing. This may include tree planting, rabbit education, weed eradication and re-guarding. It's been a great opportunity to share the knowledge and resources of the CoastCare Groups with our Landcare Group and visa versa. The Bunny Boiler is part of this grant and is scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> of December this year. It's hoped that we can build on the relationships we've formed to form a closer lifelong partnership between us and the coastal groups. We've chosen to project manage this grant ourselves and a big thank you to Carolyn Atherton for her administration of this project and to Deb Morris for her work on the Bunny Boiler planning.
- In December 2020 we held our AGM and the official launch of our new shed. This was held onsite at the location of our shed. The 'Phillip Island Landcare Community Shed' stood proudly amongst the trees on a beautiful sunny day. We want to show off the shed again and will be holding our AGM at the same location in December this year.





• We have a fabulous new website. Jasmin Rooks, my 20 year old daughter, has put an enormous amount of work in building our website from scratch. It is a clear, user friendly website with the capacity to take bookings and payments. Jasmin has also taken over the membership role. Jasmin volunteers her time as part of her university course in Conservation and Wildlife Management. <https://www.phillipislandlandcare.org.au/>

- We continued our partnership with Westernport Water with their funding of our membership plants. We also offer guard and stakes now for our members.
- We re-established the urban 'Home Garden Visits' program after a hiatus of 5 years with funding support from a Westernport Water community grant. Seven volunteers are trained up and waiting for restrictions to ease.
- Successful application for the 2021 Community Volunteer Action Grants through DELWP. This includes funding for establishing a dieback monitoring program and research, weed and plant ID training, and two revegetation projects. Well done Lisa on another successful grant application.
- Continuing working with Totally Renewable Phillip Island to establish regenerative farming practices on Phillip Island farms.
- Keeping our 120 members informed and participating in our activities.
- Our group was involved in planting approx. 8000 tube stock and held 4 community planting days, 4 farming land (2 in 2020, 2 in 2021). 125 attendees in total.



*PILG Community Planting days.*

*Above: Kym Plant property in Surf beach 2021.*

*Below: Ventnor Common 2020.*



David Rooks

Total number of sites	Metres of stockproof fencing	Number of Indigenous plants	Total hectares revegetated	Total ha of remnant enhancement/weed control
11	2,860m	16,800	9ha	10ha



## Three Creeks – Ray Kirk

The 3 Creeks Landcare Group seeks to restore and protect the integrity and sustainability of the land, biodiversity and waterways in our precinct by encouraging and assisting landowners to adopt sound land management practices.



*Planting day at the Sibly property.*



What a year! Trying to plan and accomplish anything in 2020/21 was a real challenge and as predictable as Russian roulette. Meetings and plantings were planned, moved and cancelled. We only achieved group involvement in one planting, which was at the Sibly property on Hawkins Road. A few 3 Creeks members, the BCLN works crew and Sibly family members planted along the Bridge Creek biolinks, which we have a vision of extending all the way to the Powlett River. The rest of our planned plantings were cancelled and had to be carried out by the great BCLN Works Crew and our joint efforts saw over 20,000 plants in the ground for the year.

With our 3 Creeks plantings restricted by Covid, it was encouraging that members were keen to plant on their own properties. Up to 500 free plants were provided for smaller plantings which would not usually attract other grant funding. 3 Creeks obtained 2,000 plants from the BCLN “BLING” nursery and BCLN generously provided a further 2,000 plants for this enterprise. This is a great initiative and we look forward to continuing it in future years, subject to funding.

At present the 3 Creeks balance sheet is in good health. The committee will endeavour to maintain this favourable position by a combination of grant applications, fund-raising and prudent management. We continue to encourage members and friends to support our efforts by purchasing our excellent 3 Creeks wine, provided by the Gippsland Wine Company at a very advantageous price for a wine of this quality. We also have gate and letterbox signs for sale.

At around 50, membership for the year has seen a good level of growth, with both new and the return of lapsed members. We had hoped to engage with all 3-Creekers through the programme of plantings and social events and although thwarted this year, hopefully this will happen in the coming months as restrictions ease.

We have added to our loan equipment with 2 Hico planters which are available for members to borrow. It was decided to put our spray unit up for sale as it was under-utilised.



Efforts continue in trying to secure the future of the old quarry on Turnbull-Woolamai Road which we hope to revegetate with representations made to politicians and State and local government agencies. Interest in our proposal was tempered by a knock back from DELWP but we remain hopeful of a workaround. However, a big thank you to Bass Coast Shire Council for spraying the blackberries in the quarry.

Our 3 Creeks members actively participate in other areas of the BCLN network including the BCLN board, BLING nursery, Public Fund and the Powlett Project. 2021 saw changes in the 3 Creeks committee with Peter Nuttman ably taking over the role of secretary from Anna Gloria, who fulfilled that role superbly over many years. Nick Sibly and I swapped hats - or perhaps it should have been shoes as his were a big pair to fill. Even after a year, I feel that there is still wiggle room for my toes. Nick, like so many of our members has a vast amount of knowledge and love for the local area. Finally I would like to say thank you to our committee members for their hard work, commitment and good humour and to our members for their continuing support.

Ray Kirk

Total sites	Metres of stockproof fencing	Number of Indigenous plants	Total hectares revegetated
6	2,460m	20,000	10ha



*3 Creeks Committee members and friends at the 2020 AGM.*



## Wonthaggi Urban Landcare Group – Tina Mayling

The group reformed at the start of 2021 after a couple of years in recess, with a mix of new and previous committee members, and with a renewed focus on protecting Wonthaggi's unique bushland reserves and increasing membership.

Taking advantage of the post lockdown interest in getting out and about, social media was successfully employed to increase membership and advertise weeding working bees.

Working bees were restricted to the Wonthaggi Wetlands where several sessions were held to tackle sweet pittosporum, broom and other woody weeds.

This work was greatly assisted through support from Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grant. The grant allowed for the purchase of much needed woody weeding and safety equipment. The grant also allowed for the development and printing of a pamphlet highlighting Wonthaggi's reserves, the work we undertake in each one, and inviting community members to join us.

With further easing of restrictions, working bees will be scheduled for other reserves, hopefully with greater numbers of participants.





## Partnerships

### Westernport Water

Another Operational Plan for bushlands on Westernport Water properties was successfully delivered this year. Working around Covid-19 restrictions, the Works Crew managed to spray weeds at King Road and Cowes Waste Water Treatment Plants (CWWTP), as well as at Candowie Reservoir. A small amount of supplementary planting was also undertaken at CWWTP and Candowie,



*Fox trap locations around Candowie Reservoir*

however a highlight was the number of foxes removed during the wading bird breeding season. Our newly expanded Pest Animal Control team removed a total of 12 foxes at Candowie and King Road, reducing predation during a vulnerable time for wading and migratory birds.

The Partnership contribution component allows BCLN to develop a real presence in the community, particularly in the focus areas of the Candowie Reservoir catchment and Phillip Island. It also allows the Bass Coast Landcare Network to assist landholders in fencing and planting waterways, as well as leverage support for Westernport Water through Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program.

### 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.

Shared goals of both organisations include:

- Protection of the natural resource base of the Bass Coast Shire
- Promotion and implementation of activities that protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable agriculture
- Create training opportunities based on environmental best management practices
- Provide incentive programs for land managers based on environmental best management practices
- Establish a strong and vibrant rural agricultural community comprising a range of diversified enterprises that is efficiently managed and ecologically sustainable.

## Partnership Highlights

The major highlight for the year was working closely with Simon Woodland and Diana Whittington to develop a new MOU between BCLN and BCSC. The MOU will be in place from 2021/2022 financial year through to 2024/2025 financial year. This MOU is of great importance to both organisations and provides an excellent level of support to BCLN to help deliver shared goals of both BCLN and BCSC. I would like to acknowledge the great support from the BCLN Board executive for their help in the presentation to the BCSC councillors and senior management, which helped get the MOU over the line. Our chair Ric Oldham worked closely with Dave Bateman and Robbie Gray to make sure we did an outstanding job of the presentation, which was backed up with a compelling values statement.



*Jordan Crugnale, Diana Whittington and the 3 Creeks team at Woolamai Quarry*

The continued support to both deliver Biolinks and roadside weed control have been key highlights for our partnership. Both partnership areas have had increases in activity, due more funding both from the Shire and more funds leveraged through grants.

The relationship with Bass Coast Shire continues to grow and prosper through working towards our shared goals. BCLN presented to BCSC councillors again this year to show the fantastic work the BCLN deliver within the partnership. We have also recently partnered with BCSC to help improve the monitoring of the Biolinks sites. This involves a broad program of drone, EDNA, vegetation density and diversity and photo point monitoring

## Partnership Outputs

The annual deliverables of this partnership include:

- Executive support to the BCLN Board and facilitation of ten Landcare Groups to ensure alignment of Landcare Strategic Direction
- Delivery partner in the Growing Southern Gippsland Project.
- Delivery of the Biolinks Program, which provides the core support for the majority of the 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, ie. Rural Land Use Strategy
- Assist in planning permit conditions and referrals.
- Coordination of partnership programs and funding applications
- Monitoring program for the Biolinks projects
- Expert advice on the Native Vegetation Framework and net gain opportunities
- Delivery of the Bass Coast integrated pest plant and animal program including approximately 100 customer requests,
- Coordination of DELWP rural roadside program including 7.6km of rabbit control and 195 km of weed control
- Delivery of BCSC rural roadside weed control program over approximately 432km.
- Delivering on actions within the Climate Change Action plan 2020 - 2030



## Corporate Partnerships

### TUROSİ

BCLN was very fortunate to pick up TUROSİ as a bronze sponsors this year. Craig Jenson from TUROSİ got in contact with BCLN through a connection with Brad and Dani Carr's Beef farm. TUROSİ is a global company that supplies meat across the world to a large variety of customers.



*Dani and Roman Carr*

The sponsorship has allowed BCLN to do a great 2000 plant project at Brad and Dani's farm. This project was originally planned to be planted by the St. Josephs Primary School along with TUROSİ staff, however Covid 19 made that impossible, So the BCLN Works crew along with the Carr family stepped up to get the plants in the ground. Craig is really keen to continue the partnership into the future and has put BCLN in contact with the JBS group who supply the meat to OSI. JBS are also keen to partner with BCLN to deliver on ground projects. So "from little things big things grow" as they say.

### Liminal Wellbeing

BCLN picked up Liminal as a sponsor this year through their founder Will Hams having such a great time at the Hills are Alive Planting in 2019. Will approached BCLN in Feb of 2021 to have a chat about a sponsorship for his Start up company Liminal Wellbeing. Liminal is an organisation that has developed a Mental health awareness app, aimed at helping School aged children with mental health awareness. Will is a former Essendon footballer and has a lot of great connections in the sporting world and would like to see the partnership grow in the future. This year Liminal sponsored BCLN through our Bronze package which will allow his team to come out and help us plant 2000 plants. We are Looking forward to working with Will and his team.



*Will Hams*



## Grow and protect a connected biodiverse landscape

### Project Statistics 2020-2021

#### We have achieved:

- 17,242 volunteer hours involved in Landcare activities
- 7 Community/Landcare Group Planting days
- 52 Management plans created through the DELWP catchment modelling tool EnSym for all revegetation and remnant protection projects
- 211,780 Indigenous plants established
- 102.6 ha of land revegetated
- 33,573m of fencing
- 42.48 Ha hectares of remnant vegetation protected
- 1866 Ha of Remnant vegetation enhanced through weed control
- 1819 Ha of Weeds of National Significance (WONs) weeds controlled
- 627 km of roadside weed control
- 1005 hectares of rabbit control works
- 20,386 hectares of fox control works
- 2 Soil Carbon Demonstration sites

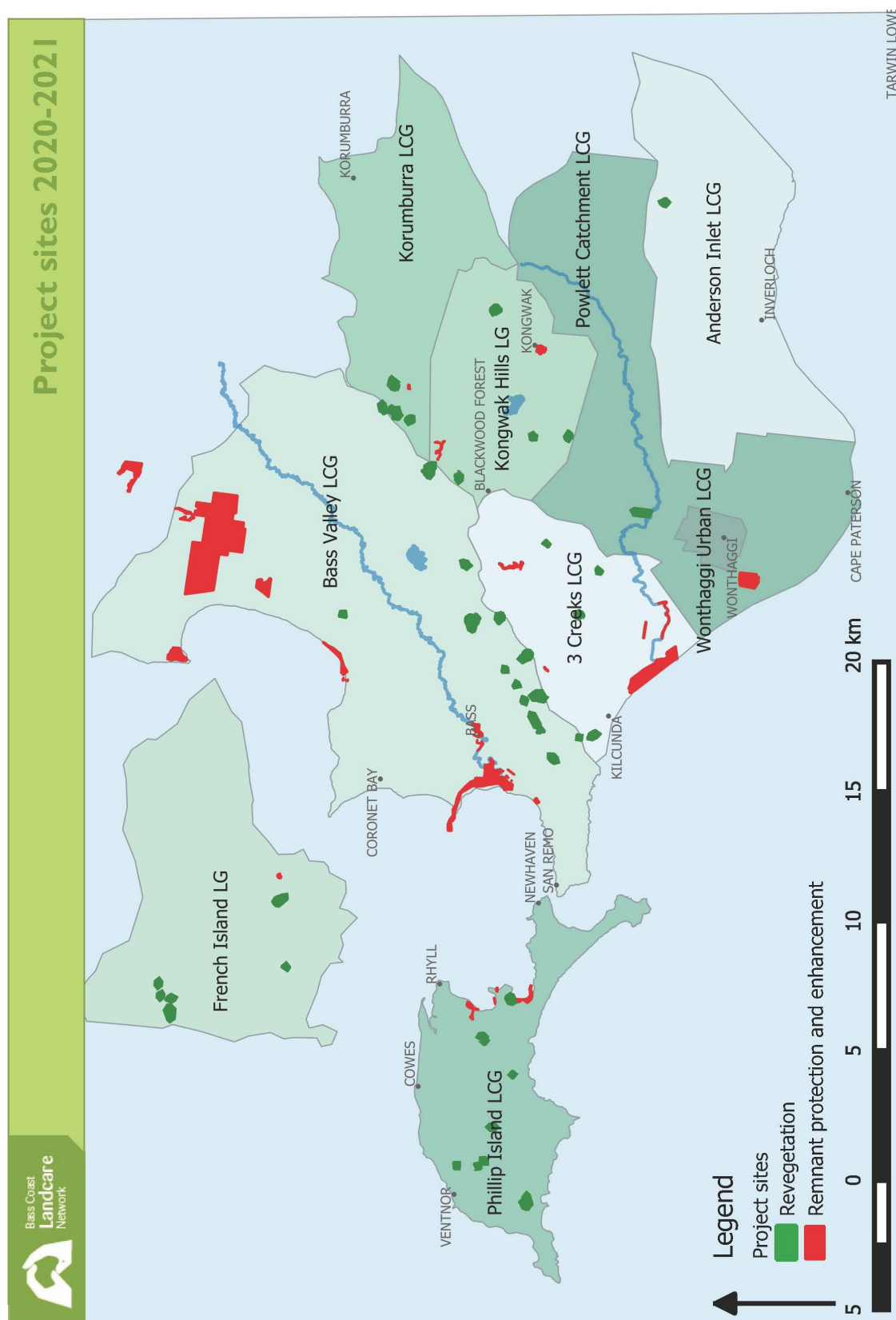


*Paul Speirs mapping weeds via ebike on the Bass Coast Rail Trail.*

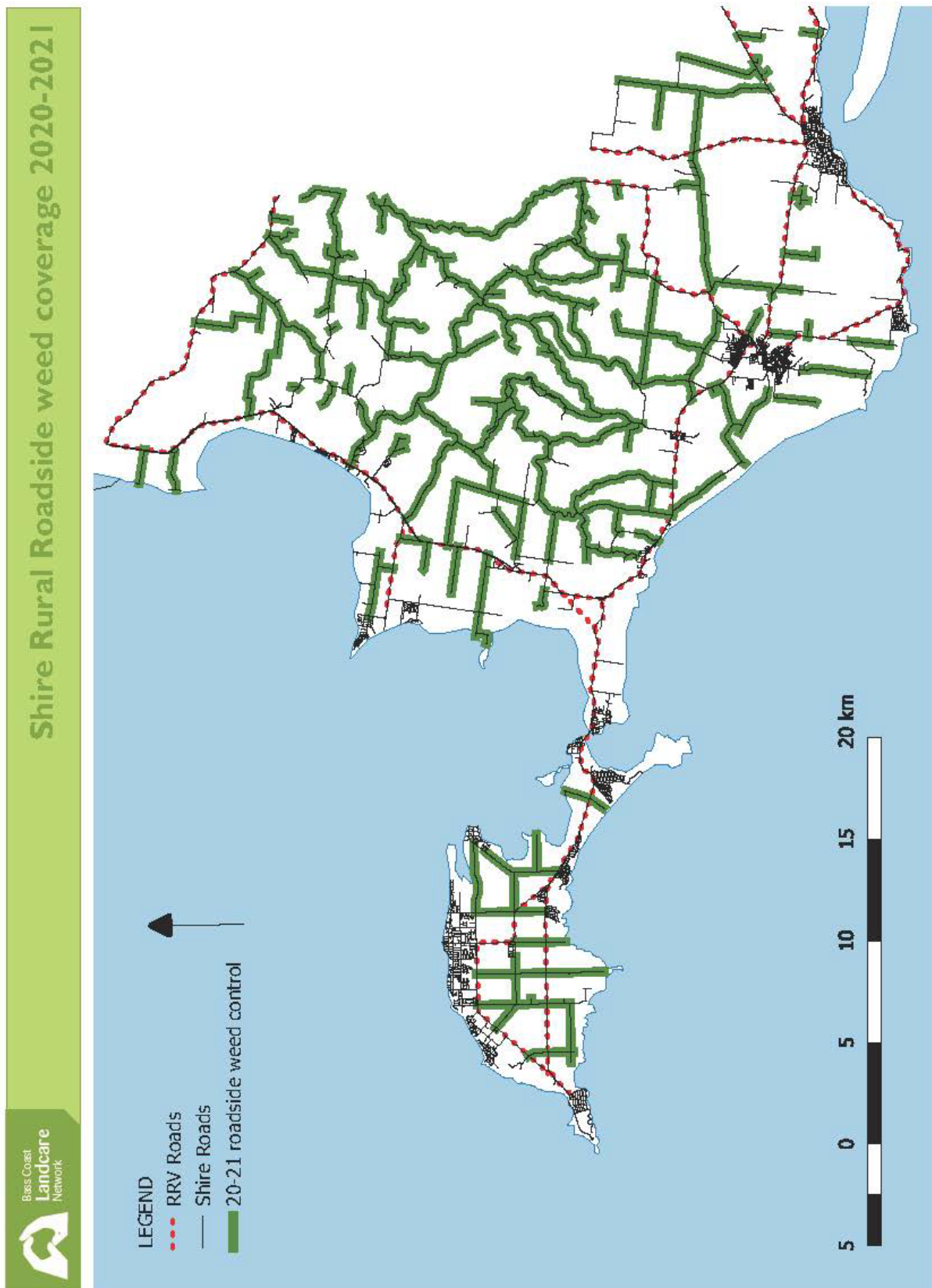


# Maps

## Revegetation, Remnant, and Horticulture Works



## Roadside Spraying Projects





## Portfolio / Program Reports

### Natural Resource Management Portfolio

Jye Andersen - NRM Project Coordinator & Landcare Facilitator  
Geoff Trease - Project officer

#### Description

Our Natural Resource Management program encompasses implementation of multiple core functions of Landcare, to restore ecosystems and protect and enhance those that remain. The Bass Coast Landcare Network have planted an average of 200,000 indigenous plants in recent years, an increase from our long-term average of 150,000. Support from Bass Coast Shire Council, through their 'Biodiversity Biolinks' program has continued to lead investment in our NRM activities and we have now secured a 3-year tender to implement the project from 2021-2023. Other major funding sources include Melbourne Water, State Government, Catchment Management Authorities (Port Philip & Western Port, West Gippsland), along with corporate sponsorships and the introduction of some new innovative initiatives on a smaller scale.

Major projects for the year were our 'Biodiversity Response Planning' (BRP) project, Victorian Landcare Grants, Ramsar, Biolinks and a new and exciting project with Greening Australia.

211,780 plants were planted this financial year, in close alignment with our recent average. This is an exceptional effort from our team, with minimal community involvement possible due to COVID-19 restrictions. Bass Coast Shire Council's 'Working for Victoria' team played an integral part to this achievement, working alongside our Works Crew to plant over 90% of this total. We can't be thankful enough for such a capable and resilient team on the ground.

#### Biolinks

Our 'Biolinks' project continues to lead the way for revegetation as our flagship revegetation program. Strong investment by Bass Coast Shire Council continues to grow, with investment of \$410,000 in the 2021 calendar year. Strategic planting locations follow the key wildlife corridors or 'biolinks' across our landscape, including waterways, coasts, roadsides and rail trails. The minimum requirement of 15m-wide projects ensures that projects hold Significant value for wildlife movement and habitat creation. Our relationship with BCSC has never been stronger and we appreciate their ongoing support and contribution through this program specifically.



*One of our key Biolinks for the year at Charles Peake's property in the Woolamai hills*

## Ramsar/Coastcare

Through funding from Coastcare Victoria and Port Phillip & Western Port CMA, we have continued to build on our mangrove revegetation efforts and research. This year we concentrated on testing the many variables of mangrove regeneration, planting over different months of the season, at varying depths and with seed collected from different locations. The results are important in shaping our future efforts with large investment through Federal funding. Over the past 2 seasons, our average survival rates after a year are within 20-30%, a promising sign compared to historical data. We have observed, recorded and adapted and we are excited to concentrate on a large-scale rollout of mangrove revegetation with community involvement in 2021/22.

## Biodiversity Response Planning

The final year of our 3-year Biodiversity Response Planning project, 'Building the Bass Coast Biolinks' provided us with many opportunities to move the program forward through other avenues. After major weed and pest animal works across key remnant sites on the Bass Coast, we have attracted further contracts to continue the works by Parks Victoria and through other grant programs. Many of these sites had been neglected for years, and the management of weeds was beyond maintenance. After 3 years of follow-up control, the sites are now in a manageable position. The importance of continuing to control these weeds is evident and we look forward to continuing to protect these significant ecological sites.

## Greening Australia

This year we are proud to have formed a new and exciting partnership with Greening Australia. GA have access to a broad range of corporate investment and we are working closely with them to deliver projects on the Bass Coast. Funding through Officeworks paper offsets has formed our first large-scale project with GA this financial year, with over 60,000 plants being delivered over the 2021 season. The projects include everything from fencing, spot spraying and planting



*Mangrove success at our core trial site in Queensferry*



*Works Crew delivering our first planting funded by Greening Australia at a property near Kongwak*



labour to be delivered by our Works Crew. GA prioritise large-scale revegetation sites, and have helped to fill a 'gap' in funding sources for projects which aren't suitable for our Biolinks or Victorian Landcare Grant projects. These large projects help to create biodiversity nodes in the landscape, and we are working with GA on delivery of carbon offset projects in the near future.

## New Initiatives

We have broadened the reach of our NRM portfolio this year, developing some new and exciting initiatives, such as the Arborists for Forests (AFF) Initiative and Plants for Packaging (PFP) Initiative with environmental solutions company, B-Alternative. Working with external businesses through these partnerships has opened up a new platform for achieving great ecological outcomes for our local environment.

The AFF provides an opportunity for Arborist companies to engage with environmental restoration activities and improve the sustainability of their businesses. Over the past year, we have partnered with 3 local operators: Bass Coast Tree Care, South Gippsland Tree Care and Arborzone Total Tree Care. For every tree they remove, we plant between 2 and 10 indigenous plants on the Bass Coast. Next year, we will plant 2,000 plants through the initiative.



*Between 2-10 Indigenous plants are planted for every tree removed  
by our partnered arborist companies*

## Natural Resource Management Outputs

### Overall on-ground outputs

- 33,573 metres of fencing
- 211,780 indigenous plants in the ground

### Outputs by each BCLN Landcare Group

- In the Three Creeks Landcare group area, 20,000 plants were planted, and 2,460 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Korumburra Landcare group area, 12,000 plants were planted, and 2,000 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Powlett Project Landcare group area, 25,600 plants were planted, and 5,106 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Kongwak Hills Landcare group area, 8,480 plants were planted, and 420 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Phillip Island Landcare group area, 16,800 plants were planted, and 2,860 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Bass Valley Landcare group area, 118,100 plants were planted, and 13,875 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the French Island Landcare group area, 6,800 plants were planted, and 2,820 metres of stock proof fence was established.
- In the Anderson Inlet Landcare group area, 4,000 plants were planted, and 1,992 metres of stock proof fence was established.

### Natural Resource Management Outcomes

- 102.6 Ha of land revegetated through hyco plantings
- 42.48 Ha of Remnant vegetation protected
- 1866 Ha of Remnant vegetation enhanced through weed control
- EVCs re-established include Damp Forest, Wet Forest, Lowland Forest, Swamp Scrub, Damp Sands Herb-Rich Woodland, Swampy Riparian Woodland, Mangrove Shrubland, Coastal Banksia Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Heathy Woodland, Riparian Forest
- 52 x 10-year Management agreements created through the DELWP catchment modelling tool EnSym for all revegetation and remnant protection projects
- WONs weeds controlled over 1819 Ha



*Thank you to the Working for Victoria Crew Members who helped get thousands of plants in the ground this year.*



## Ecosystems Services Portfolio

### Robbie Gray - Ecosystem Services Manager

The year that has again presented many hurdles, and the Ecosystem Services staff were more than up to the challenge. Last minute lockdowns, ever changing restrictions, altered timelines and resources, and Covid scares were overcome in a professional manner to impressively achieve all outcomes.

Mark Rowe's management of a huge number of jobs, a dozen staff, plant and equipment, volunteers including Working for Victoria, was made more complex when volunteers could not assist with plantings halfway through the season. He has kept the Works Crew humming along, forged new partnerships and expanded existing ones, and has continued to build the skill and safety of new and existing team members.

The Pest Plant and Animal team has established itself and is navigating the tricky transition from a large long-term project well. Jason Good has successfully overseen the delivery of a large-scale baiting program for South Gippsland Landcare Network, which was granted an extension into 2021-2022. He has expanded BCLN's pest services, trained Works Crew staff, and mentored Jason McCracken who filled the Pest Plant and Animal Project Officer at the start of the financial year. Together, they have applied for a range of pest animal focussed grants and secured more contracts to protect native fauna and flora.

The Nursery continues to grow and prove itself as a great facility for BCLN. The volunteer group has held together over a disjointed year to emerge larger. The nursery also expanded in area to accommodate greater numbers of plants grown by the group. Stevie has taken the reins from Bronwyn, and is now helped by Dani, and everyone is ready for a big growing season.

Dung beetle nurseries for Winter and Spring active beetles have been established at the River Garden, thanks to assistance from the WGCMA. These nurseries will achieve a 5 fold increase in beetles, which will then be distributed to several farms a year to breed up further. These beetles will fill a gap in dung beetle activity during the wettest time of year, where nutrient run off is highest.

All teams are working well together and with the NRM team. This will continue to improve with the establishment of shared calendars for works programs and plant and equipment, improvement in project information and communication, safety processes and behaviours, and the strengthening of relatively new working relationships.



*Installation of the dung beetle nursery at the River Garden*

## Pest Plant and Animal Program

Jason Good - Pest Animal Coordinator

Jason McCracken - Pest Plant and Animal Project Officer

### Parks Victoria

As part of Parks Victoria's southern-brown bandicoot protection program, BCLN was once again contracted to control foxes via soft-jaw trapping at two locations. The sites that were chosen are Adams Creek Nature Conservation Reserve and the Wonthaggi Heathlands. These sites have historically been home to southern-brown bandicoots which are an endangered species in Victoria and Australia. Foxes are one of the main reasons for their endangered status so by removing foxes from these areas it will give the bandicoots the best chance of survival and population bounce back. BCLN undertook 8 soft-jaw trapping pulses (1 pulse = 7 trapping nights) across both sites with 14 foxes being removed.

Due to the strong relationship built over the previous 2 years, Parks Victoria have contracted BCLN to continue controlling foxes in these areas with more soft-jaw trapping and some free feed baiting trails on neighbouring farmland to determine the viability of this control method for future programs. The successful partnership has also lead to further work for Parks Victoria to undertake trapping programs for foxes on the Anderson Peninsula in partnership with the Phillip Island Nature Parks.

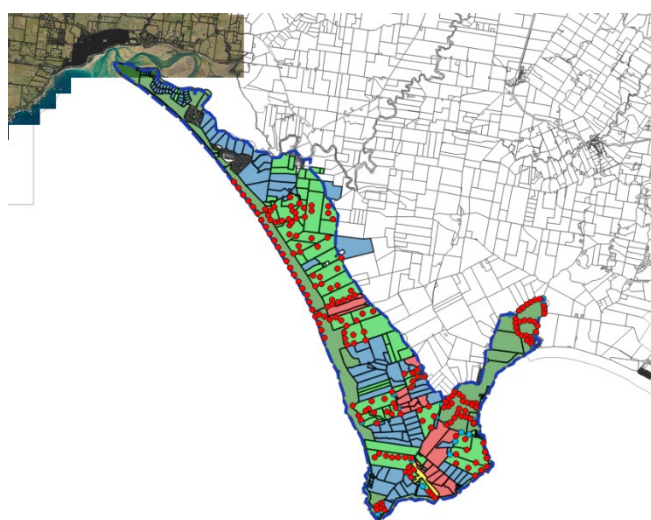


*Fox seen sniffing a scent trail prior to being trapped near the Wonthaggi Heathlands.*

### South Gippsland Landcare Network

This was the third and final year of the West Gippsland CMA/South Gippsland Landcare Network's Biodiversity Response Plan (BRP) project 'Enhancing Biodiversity at the Bunurong Coastal Landscape'. BCLN were contracted to undertake all on-ground fox and rabbit control works during this project along with public and private land manager engagement.

During this year BCLN conducted 4 x 5-week 1080 baiting pulses across the 16,000ha project area between Venus Bay and Waratah Bay. Baiting was undertaken on 3 public land areas managed by Parks



*Project area with red dots marking bait stations.*



Victoria and 15 private farmlands. 469 baits were taken by foxes (93 free feed and 376 1080) over the third year taking our total for the project to 767 (131 free feed and 636 1080) baits taken over the 3 years which has been a great success.

Due to the success of this project there has been a 6-month extension rewarded which see BCLN continuing this work until the end of December 2021 which is great news. This project has given us the opportunity to further develop our relationships with West Gippsland CMA and South Gippsland Landcare Network and has already led BCLN to gain further work including fox control and mapping on Dream Island for WGCMA.



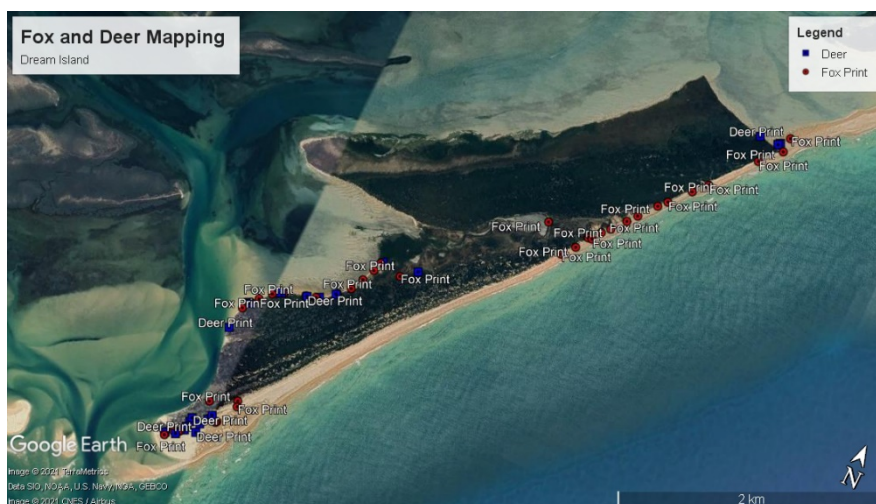
*BCLN staff member Jason McCracken laying free feed bait along the Venus Bay dune system.*

## West Gippsland CMA

Due to the success of other pest animal projects, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) contracted BCLN to undertake fox control on Dream Island which is one of the Barrier Islands near Corner Inlet. These islands are known to be home to several shorebird species including, Hooded Plovers, Oyster Catchers, Red Capped Plovers, and Crested Terns. Birdlife Australia undertake regular shorebird monitoring programs on the islands and have found evidence of fox predation on chicks and eggs during the breeding season and raised this concern to Parks Victoria and WGCMA.

BCLN were contracted to run a fox control program on Dream Island via thermal scope shooting over two nights with the team camping on the island during the control period. Unfortunately, no foxes were seen during the first night and the second night saw a large storm roll in, however BCLN were still able to conduct

some mapping of fox prints, scats, and deer prints across the island which has shown up some hot spots for targeted control programs in the future. WGCMA have expressed a desire to undertake further fox control programs on Dream Island and some of the other islands in the area.



*Map of fox and deer sign on Dream Island*

## Port Phillip and Westernport CMA

Similar to WGCMA, Port Phillip and Westernport CMA (PPWCMA) heard about BCLN's successful pest animal control programs and got in contact to run some fox and rabbit control programs at Stockyard Point as part of their Ramsar protection program. BCLN undertook 2 x 7-night soft-jaw trapping pulses, 2 days of rabbit warren mapping, and 3 days of warren fumigation.



*Warrens mapped at Stockyard Point*

During the soft-jaw trapping pulses no foxes were caught, there were also no prints or foxes seen during this time, this is likely due to the fact there was a 1080 fox baiting program being run at the same time along the coastline which would have removed a number of foxes in the area before trapping begun.

Rabbit warren mapping uncovered an extensive rabbit population issue with 42 warrens mapped over 2 days. 28 of the mapped warrens were fumigated over 3 days, some of these warrens had up to 14 entrances which suggests they have been left untreated for a long period of time. Due to the extent of the rabbit population, BCLN have suggested running baiting programs later in the summer to get a significant decrease in population.

## Westernport Water

Carrying on from previous years, BCLN continued with their strong partnership with Westernport Water including pest animal control at 3 of their sites Cowes Treatment Plant, Candowie Reservoir, and King Rd Treatment Plant.

### **Cowes Treatment Plant**

Spotlight shooting was the control method used for rabbits and hares across the site, nights of shooting undertaken with 23 rabbits and 11 hares removed during this year. This number is increased from last year which is likely due to favourable breeding conditions for these species and shooting being done across more of the site.



### King Rd Treatment Plant

Spotlight shooting and soft-jaw trapping were used to target foxes, hares, and rabbits around the King Rd site. 14 rabbits, 3 hares and 0 foxes were shot across 4 nights of shooting, a few foxes were seen although they were never close enough. 2 x 4-night trapping pulses were undertaken at King Rd with 2 foxes removed in April.

### Candowie Reservoir

Soft-jaw trapping was used as the method to control foxes around the Candowie reservoir. 2 pulses of 8 trapping nights was conducted with a total of 10 foxes removed from the area which is a great result and the most we have ever removed since control has been going on in the area.



*Map of soft-jaw trapping sites around the Candowie reservoir.*

### Phillip Island Nature Parks

This was the sixth year that the Phillip Island Nature Parks and BCLN collaborated to complete rabbit control on Phillip Island for the Newhaven Buffer Zone Project. The ongoing rabbit control program has continued to strengthen the relationship between the two organisations, as well as reducing rabbit numbers and decreasing their impacts on significant environmental, social, and economic assets local to the area. Collaboration between both organisations relating to rabbit monitoring and control has also been outlined in the Nature Park's 5-Year Conservation Plan 2019-2023 (5.1.3), where it is highlighted as one of the key actions for implementation from the Pest Management Strategy 2019-2023. It also lines up with BCLN's rabbit management strategy which is due to be updated in 2021-22.



*Warren smoking to determine number of entrances before fumigation.*





*Rabbit proof fence at Fishers Wetland.*

The key activities undertaken were rabbit-proof fence checks and repairs with a significant focus on the Banksia Park/Fishers wetland section, a new skirt was laid to reduce invasion into Fisher's wetland and Churchill Island. Spotlight count monitoring, warren fumigation, and mop up shooting were also implemented, baiting was excluded this year to allow for further research to be conducted to determine the most risk adverse methods to protect off target species. This concentrated focus on warren mapping and fumigation treatment was employed as a result of excluding baiting, the added time and allocation to this method allowed for a thorough approach and resulted in a total of 130 warrens that were located, mapped, and treated if active with aluminium phosphide tablets. The combination of these activities (fencing, fumigation, and shooting) resulted in a reduction in rabbit numbers across 2 properties. It is believed we may have seen further improvement if not for the frequent disruptions and postponing due to Covid 19.

## Private

### Albert Ruttle Estate

BCLN was contacted by a local community group from Albert Ruttle Estate near Inverloch with concerns of foxes taking native wildlife throughout the nature estate. BCLN held meeting with some of the community to discuss options of fox control and it was agreed that BCLN would undertake 7 nights of soft-jaw trapping. 4 foxes were trapped and removed during this trapping pulse which was a great result for the community with discussions now being had about running yearly trapping programs in the estate.



*Map of trap sites throughout the Albert Ruttle Estate in Inverloch*



## Works Crew

Mark Rowe - Works Crew Coordinator

Luke Phillips, Angus Carrington - Works Crew Leading hand

Works Crew Members - Andrew Smith, Stevie Wynen, Dani Mathysen-Carr, Paul Micallef, Bailey Anderson, Jack Harris, Mickey Gaynor.

The 2020/2021 financial year has been a year to remember. From new job prospects, an ever-expanding pest animal program, forging new partnerships and to the current Covid 19 pandemic.

## Events and Plantings

The start of July 2020, Travis Lukies offered us a fantastic site on the Foster Creek at Bena, where we had previously cleared out old willow trees working with WGCMA. It had some remnant mountain ash trees in the site which was a first for the Works Crew. The Crew planted 8,000 trees with the help of the Korumburra Landcare Group.

Charles Davidsons property in the Woolamai hills, which was a combined project between Melbourne Water and Biolinks, saw us plant 27,000 plants with the help of the Working For Victoria employees which we had working with us every second week (every alternate week they were working with Bass Coast Shire).

Cameron Corrigan again offered up his property for another 'The Hills are Alive' planting, but due to Covid 19 pandemic the Works Crew undertook this as a result. Although the site was very steep, wet, and inaccessible, it turned out to be a massive success, with the fantastic help from the Working For Victoria team. This was a Bass Coast Shire Council Biolinks project.

At the start of the 2021 planting season, we planted a combination of aquatic plants and swamp scrub plants at a wetland on Gap Road near Cowes. We trialed a new home-made guard, to prevent the wallabies, rabbits, and bird life from eating the plants. Even though they were time consuming to construct and install, they are proving to be effective.



*Gap Road Wetland planting with the new home made guards*

The Bass River in Bass also benefited from the Biolinks project, as we cleared a big infestation of Wandering Trad from underneath the existing predominately eucalyptus and wattle canopy and planted an abundance of low-medium shrubs and native grasses. The area will continue to expand as funding becomes available.

The old Kilcunda Railway Station also gained attention through this project as well, where we planted grassy woodland plants on open areas that were traditionally mowed in the past, to hopefully create a more continuous wildlife corridor in the heart of Kilcunda.

We were lucky enough to obtain the Greening Australia project also. This project took us not only around the Bass Coast area but also into South Gippsland, mainly around Korumburra.

The first of these plantings was in May 2021 at Terry Opies property at Jumbunna, in a steep gully that had proved difficult to maintain weeds in. Chris Miller at Bena also provided another fantastic site, planting his waterways in amongst old remnant blue gum trees.

The planting sites this year were a combination of Melbourne Water, Biolinks, Greening Australia and private landholders projects.

## Partnerships

The Works Crew continued to strengthen our partnership with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. In August 2020 we were lucky enough to be able to help them remove a dangerous fishing platform in Tarwin Lower and make the remaining platforms safe for the community to continue to use. After the big storm activity that lashed the area in June 2021, they quickly engaged us to do a lot of storm damage clean up with heavy chainsaws in Dumbalk, Toora and Mirboo. When the properties dry out a little more there will be more of this work in the coming months.

We also made our way down to Binginwarri to plant 2,500 tubes along Golden Creek, a joint venture between the WGCMA and the Yarram Landcare Group. We achieved the job within the day, making the most of the buggy to move all the plants over 2km through wet, boggy paddocks. It was a big day, especially because of the distance we travelled to get to the site, but a beautiful part of the country that we rarely get to see.



*Ken Cody's property on the Golden Creek  
Binginwarri*

We have continued our agreement with Holcim's Grantville Sand and Gravel, attending the site two days per month over the last financial year. Through good networking and positive relationships with Holcim, we were asked to quote on another quarry site in Jeeralang. We are undertaking similar works for this site as at Grantville.

South Gippsland Landcare Network has also started to engage us slowly on some small jobs.

Following on from the above partnerships, we conducted ten days of weed control, spraying across three separate quarry sites owned by Metro Quarry Group at Bass, Lang Lang and Nyora. Here we were focusing on large infestations of blackberry.

Scott Elliot from the Yarram Yarram Landcare Group also got us to help with his sea grass initiative at Corner Inlet.



## Moving With the Times

Moving into Autumn and the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Works Crew adapted to the new working restrictions, adhering to all the social protocols to ensure the health and safety of themselves and their fellow co-workers. We continue to follow the necessary processes to keep us all safe, which is in line with the current state government restrictions.

The 2020 planting season coincided with the governments 'Job Keeper' scheme, which allowed us to utilise our own staff in slow periods around the River Garden, Arboretum, Bass River, Rec Reserve, Nursery and implementing improvements around the Depot, making it safer for everyone. This also assisted us in keeping our staff employed and retaining them. This is important to us at Landcare, as we consider our staff to be skilled and valued team members.

We greatly appreciate the assistance the five Working For Victoria staff gave us over a six-month period, as without their help we would not have been able to get all the trees planted.

Clive Verboon completed a new wash down bay / fill point by concreting the area making it safer for us and allowing us to contain any potential spills in the future. A shower, eye wash and a 120-litre spill kit have also been installed along with safety signage. Clive also completed the storm water drain in the parking area at the depot.



*Luke and the Working for Victoria crew making guards*

We have also claimed some more area at the depot and expanded our plant carrying capacity in the Nursery with a whole new dedicated, fully fenced hardening off area.

## Training

Four staff have completed their chemical user's course and 1080 training (fox baiting), to be able to help with ever-expanding pest animal program and the commitments we had to fulfilling the third year of SGLN BRP project. We also had three more staff undertake firearm safety training to be able to help with the trapping component of the pest animal program. From the training we have completed, our skills are more refined and further developed. As a result, we were able to have up to 12 active people working on the Works Crew on a regular basis.

## Mosquito Baiting

The Bass Coast Shire Council mosquito monitoring and baiting program started in earnest in October and continued throughout the summer. Mosquito monitoring was a huge success this year, due to the early start.

## Bass Landcare Indigenous Nursery Group

Bron Teesdale - Nursery Supervisor

Stevie Wynen - Nursery Assistant / Supervisor

Dani Mathysen-Carr - Nursery Assistant

The nursery group and nursery has continued to flourish despite multiple Covid 19 lockdowns and restrictions. Luckily the group could meet during Summer when propagation and pricking out is at its peak, and even managed to squeeze in a few excursions and activities.



*Dani and Stevie in the new hardening off area with the 20,000 plants for BCLN groups*

After committing to managing the nursery for only its first year,

Bronwyn Teesdale stayed for five years and was instrumental in increasing the diversity and quality of seedlings grown and strengthening the nursery group. She retired after the propagation season and has moved to Woodside. We wish her all the best and hope to see her from time to time.

Bron's protégé, Stevie, has moved to oversee the nursery, and we welcome Dani from the Works Crew who will assist Stevie as well as support the nursery group.



*Excursion to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne*

Despite another challenging year, the nursery produced the largest number of seedlings to date, 55,000, a 17% increase from last year. To manage this increase and to hold a huge influx of orders from other nurseries, a large hardening off area was developed through the Bass Recreation Reserve Committee of Management generous expansion our lease area.



## Outputs

- Over 30 volunteer mornings attended by an average of 10 volunteers. Volunteer days were reduced over the year because of Covid-19 restrictions
- Construction of a large hardening off area, including automated irrigation
- Propagation of 55,000 seedlings
- Holding orders of a further 80,000 seedlings during planting season
- Procurement of nursery benches and all access propagation tables (through funding assistance from Bass Coast Shire Council), and plastic pallets to reduce the amount of back strain.

## Outcomes and Group Highlights

- Excursions to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, learning about the connection between birds and revegetation at Ray Kirk's farm courtesy of Dallas Wyatt, planting days at Grantville Conservation Reserve and along the Bass River, releasing dung beetles, and seed collecting.
- Persistence of strong volunteerism at the nursery
- Expansion and further development of the nursery and facilities



*BLING Group seed collecting*

## Lead an Innovative Sustainable Agricultural Community

### Sustainable Agriculture Portfolio

Joel Geoghegan – Team leader, Sustainable Agriculture

Building on the success of the 2019/20 program, the Sustainable Agriculture program again went from strength to strength. It was a year that continued on the momentum of two ongoing projects, the 'Smart Farming in Westernport' project and 'Growing Southern Gippsland'. Both of these projects entered their third year having commenced on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The Growing Southern Gippsland project was extended by 6 months due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

#### Growing Southern Gippsland

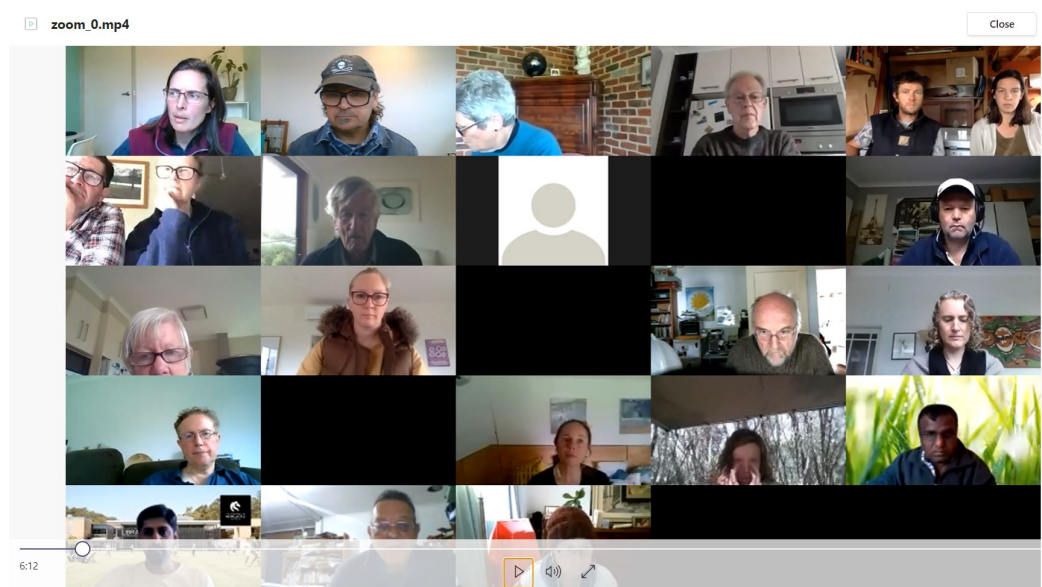
Originally a two-year project scheduled for completion on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, the project was offered an extension to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 due to Covid 19, an extra 6 months.



This project is a true collaboration, and we welcome and thank our project collaborators for their commitment and support; Federation University Australia, RMIT University, South Gippsland Landcare Network and Bass Coast Shire Council.

The main project deliverables are:

- 12 targeted Southern Gippsland case studies:
- 6 targeted field days/workshops
- Development of a web-based decision-making portal and website
- Production of a series of supporting multimedia products
- Project launch and wrap up



*Screen shot image of Online field day, Waste and energy in a Changing Climate. This event was run in October 2021. Due to COVID-19 all events were held online.*



The project is now complete with all deliverables achieved and project reporting accepted by the project funders, DELWP.

Final project deliverables include:

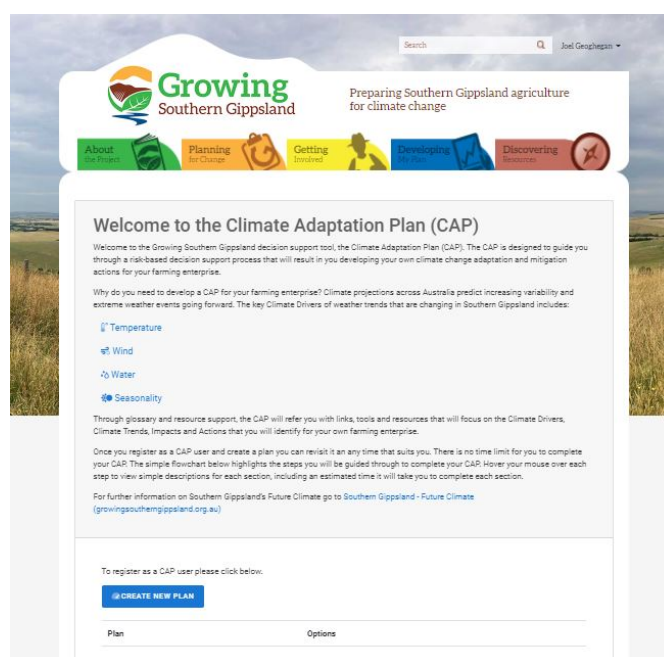
- 12 case studies are complete
- 6 field days/webinars hosted and are complete
- Website is complete and went live in November 2020-  
[www.growingsoutherngippsland.org.au](http://www.growingsoutherngippsland.org.au) (Note that ongoing website maintenance and updates will be required - we are looking to secure further funding for this)
- Production of a series of multimedia products are complete and are available on the Bass Coast Landcare Network vimeo channel- <https://vimeo.com/user86454618>

It is important to note that whilst the project is officially complete, the development of a web-based decision-making tool has been delayed. The project team is working hard to ensure this tool is completed by the end of 2021.

The Growing Southern Gippsland project's key measure of success is inextricably linked to its future legacy. The project's key measures of success will be:

- The 'Growing Southern Gippsland' website will be relevant, functional, useable and used by farmers to plan for a changing climate beyond the life of the current funding
- The 'Growing Southern Gippsland' collaborative partnership will continue to work together on future projects under the "Growing Southern Gippsland" umbrella.

[www.growingsoutherngippsland.com.au](http://www.growingsoutherngippsland.com.au)



Screen shot image of Climate Adaptation Plan landing page, soon to be completed.

## Smart Farming in Westernport - National Landcare Program 2

2020/21 marked the third 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. At June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 the project just completed its second year.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the project was required to continually adapt its delivery methods. 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 2020/21. In 2020/21 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 in 2021/22
- One ongoing soil carbon demonstration site at Kernot. Monitoring is ongoing with a case study report to be developed in 2021/22
- One Regenerative Grazing Management Field Day/webinar attended by 32 people
- Three online field day/webinar sessions on Regenerative Agriculture Farm Business attended by 24 people each session.
- 14 discussion group events attended by 194 people

## Discussion Groups

In 2020/21 the Smart Farming in Westernport Project hosted 14 Discussion group events with a combined attendance of 194 people. 2020/21 discussion group highlights include the following:

- Successfully hosting 13 discussion group events online over zoom.
- Hosted one 'on farm' discussion group event in March 2021, Composting on Farm, attended by 31 people. This was the highest attendance for all our discussion groups in 2020/21, clearly illustrating the need to get back into the paddock and meet face to face.

Thank you to Faye Tughton for coordinating the Kongwak Ellipak discussion group events. Also, a big thank to all our online farm hosts and our guest speakers for the 2020/21 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 2021/22.



*In March 2021 we hosted a 'composting on farm' discussion group event at a property in Tarwin Lower. This day was supported by Agronomist, Chris Alenson, and David Walker from Aussie Compost. One of the few on farm events we were able to host in 2020/21.*



## Future Homes and Farms for 2040

In support of the Future Homes and Farms for 2040 project the Sustainable Agriculture program facilitated three events in 2020/21. In December 2020, two online workshops were hosted focusing on 'Opportunities for Carbon on Farms'. Attended by a combined participant number of 36 people, these workshops proved to be very successful. Over the two sessions we hosted the following guest speakers:

- Declan McDonald - Regenerative Agriculture Consultant
- Peter Ronalds - Soil Coring Contractor
- Robbie Gray - Bass Coast Landcare Network
- James McGregor - Biodiverse Carbon

These workshops were followed up by a third event, Water Management in a Changing Climate, held in May 2021. We were lucky enough to be able to host this event on farm. Participant numbers were positive, with 40 people in attendance. Guest speakers included John Clarke from CSIRO and Peter Hazel from the Mulloon Institute.



*Peter Hazel from the Mulloon Institute in the paddock at the Woodleigh property of Camilla and Joby Graves.*

*Water Management in a Changing Climate Field Day- May 2021, another event that we were lucky to host on farm.*

## Capitalise on Carbon

### All Things Carbon Program

BCLN's All Things Carbon program has been slowly moving forward behind the scenes in 2020/21. The demand for food and fibre is increasing, but during periods of climate variability, maintaining a productive and profitable farm is becoming increasingly difficult. Farms that provide shade and shelter, build and increase soil organic matter are more resilient during extreme or variable climate and weather events. Regenerative agriculture is the umbrella philosophy that describes these more resilient farm management practices.

2020/21 has further seen an increased focus on introducing the concepts of regenerative agriculture into the farming community of Bass Coast and Southern Gippsland. A 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 training programs and workshops scheduled for 2021/22 and beyond.

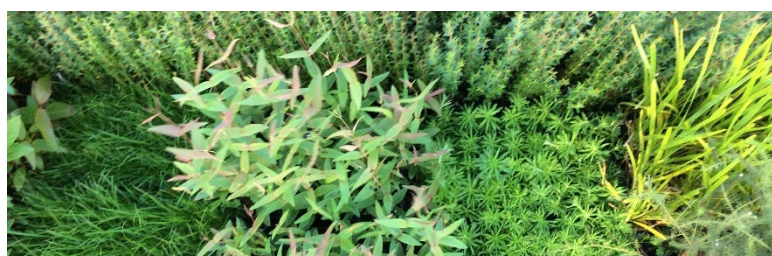
Regenerative agriculture has many benefits, one in particular is the increasing of sequestered carbon on farm, either soil carbon or tree carbon. Sequestered carbon can be traded and is considered a co-benefit alongside productivity gains through increased fertility and water holding capacity. Southern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

The ATC team includes Ric Oldham, Roger Lee, Robbie Gray, Joel Geoghegan and Dave Bateman. BCLN will continue to push forward with the 'All Things Carbon' and 'Farming for climate' 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 Sustainability Festival and Future farming workshops.

BCLN is continually nurturing its partnership with Greening Australia Biodiverse Carbon. This partnership will ultimately enable Bass Coast farmers to get involved in the Biodiverse Tree Carbon Market.

Through the Smart Farming in Westernport project two soil carbon demonstrations are underway on Phillip Island and Kernot. The aim of these demonstrations is to prove that certain regenerative agriculture management approaches can sequester carbon, namely the use of multiple species carbon crops combined with rotational grazing approaches.

BCLN staff are also looking for new professional development opportunities and funding opportunities to further entrench 'All Things Carbon' into our daily operations. We look forward to 2021/22 with optimism and look forward to reporting 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 Assistants - Anna Brayley, Holly Gurling (Maternity leave position), Luke Phillips

With snap lockdowns and restrictions on gatherings and events continuing, we remained flexible, rose to the challenge of pivoting events to run online, postponed and re-advertised what we couldn't, and gained extensions on projects best delivered in person. I am extremely proud of the resilience, innovation, and capability of all BCLN staff and grateful to have such an adaptable team that kept things going in a challenging year of organising school environmental activity days, training events and volunteer days at the River Garden.

Despite this there were unforeseen benefits, including greater accessibility for more people to attend online events, which enabled recording of the events as legacy content. This has helped extend our reach to a wider range of people who can view these resources anytime on the BCLN website. Less school activity days meant more time for staff training and writing successful grants, enabling us to re-invigorate and expand our education programs.

We welcomed Holly Gurling into the Communications and Administration support, maternity leave position for seven months and congratulate Anna and Aaron on the safe arrival of beautiful baby Grace. We welcomed Luke Phillips into the Administration and Communications Assistant role when Holly took another position with the Open Food network. Now Anna and Luke share this position. Both Anna and Luke were Works Crew trainees, and it is a fantastic success story to see them be able to grow and expand their skillsets and careers within BCLN.

### **Training Programs**

#### **Welcome Garden visits**

Phillip Island Landcare group Volunteers participated in training for 'Welcome Garden visits' to new members. Based on past Urban Landcare site visits, volunteers learned skills in people management, giving indigenous plant and weed management advice, biodiversity, creating habitat, waterwise gardening, garden design and site visit processes. What great impacts these volunteers will make in assisting our



community to make sustainable changes in their gardens. Check out the new Phillip Island Landcare group web page for more on this great program.

<https://www.phillipislandlandcare.org.au/home-garden-visits-1>

## Women on farms Series

We were successful in gaining \$10,000 from Southern Farming Systems to run four Women on Farms days last year and an additional \$1450 from Bass Coast Community Foundation for another session this year. We were to hold these in 2020, with expert speakers on seasonal topics. We received extensions instead, preferring to run these on farms, in person for valuable networking experiences to be gained. We then had to start the series by the end of July 2021, so planned a workshop which ended up running online with 16 local women, discussing winter pugging of pastures with John Bowman from Agriculture Victoria. We would like to thank Faye Tughton who was instrumental in providing valuable advice and sharing her experience in running farm discussion group days. We look forward to running in person events for the rest of the series and hope this will be the start of a wonderful new farm discussion group!

## Staff training

This year our staff participated in training programs including an online Development program for Event organisers with rEvents, specialists in regional events and a Video story production course with Digital Storytellers, hosted by the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA. This helped us with organising of the Sustainability Festival and to implement more video into BLCN communications, enabling community engagement while we all had to stay home. Messaging for change training introduced us to Values based messaging, helping to craft our Landcare stories and share information in more engaging ways to empower and inspire action.

## Future Homes Farms and Festivals for 2040

This project funded by the DELWP Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for \$53,636 is to run six workshops, create seven video stories and run two annual Sustainability Festivals, finishing in December 2021. We gained an additional \$20,000 this year from the Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) Climate Change Action Plan 2020 - 2030 to support the project. A natural extension of the past 'Future Homes' sustainability tours we ran for BCSC, this project has three farm-based topics that Joel has been organising and three home and community-based topics that Lisa is organizing, with more to come in 2022.

Originally these were to be tours to innovative properties doing great things in each topic, accompanied by expert speakers. After postponing, pivoting and extending of timelines this year due to snap lockdowns and restrictions, Joel was able to run the following farm-based sessions:

- Opportunities for carbon on farms – 2 webinars (in Sustainable agriculture report)
- Water Management in a changing climate – On farm day (in Sustainable agriculture report)



Remaining topics to be run before the end of 2021 include:

- Biodiversity working for you against future pest pressures on farm
- Resilient urban gardens & landscapes
- Comfortable homes of the future
- Connecting community action/local groups for social resilience in changing times



Video stories provide legacy content for each topic that anyone can view, anytime. Video products produced from the sessions run so far include four videos of presentations at the Carbon webinars, one on Water security and another showcasing one property owner and their water management which is still in production. See our vimeo channel for the videos at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8559170>



BCLN also took over the management of the Sustainability Festival from Bass Coast Shire Council in mid-late 2019 with a small amount of recurring events funding from them. The events industry across the world was hit hard by the pandemic and we were no different. The first one originally planned for May 2020 was postponed through successive lockdowns and large event restrictions where we wished we had a crystal ball to look into the future to decide what we could do! Our DELWP project funding couldn't be extended beyond December 2021 so by winter of 2021 we were forced to 'reimagine' the festival and came up with a series of 'Covid-proof' options that could still run in the harshest of restrictions, instead of one big day event. DELWP agreed to combine funding for two years of the festival into one year, as long as we could run something by the end of 2021.

That was when the Sustainability Festival 2021 'Reimagined' was born. The new format will extend an invitation to local groups, businesses and organisations to host online or in-person events (adhering to all restrictions) through six weeks starting on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021, with



an opening night Launch event, featuring high profile keynote speakers and finishing with a Produce and Sustainability market on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of December at the River Garden. BCLN will run the launch and market events, plus a River Garden event and some of our Future homes workshops/webinars in between, and others will run their own events and advertise them as part of the festival program which we will put together and advertise heavily.

### Catchment Custodian Kids

With students transitioning from home-based learning to school and back again, there were very limited school-based activities in this reporting year and we are seeking extensions from both the Port Phillip and Westernport and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authorities to complete our funded tree planting and monitoring activities when restrictions allow. We have lined up students from Wonthaggi Secondary College for some planting later in the 2021 season and can't wait finally get students out on farms and reserves again across Bass Coast.

## Environmental Detectives Schools program and Place Based Learning

Our flagship schools Environmental Education program, Environmental Detectives has operated on a fee for service basis since mid-2019, until a recent major injection of funding from the DELWP Distinctive areas and landscape program, where we have secured \$200,000 to run school activities and a series of place-based tours for the general public over 18 months, and construct an education shelter in the River Garden. We will soon begin designing tours, reinvigorating the educational materials for Environmental Detectives, training up staff and making plans to design our shelter, very exciting!

There are currently 10 activities in the Environmental Detectives program, run at parks, reserves, farms or as incursions to schools, including: Aquatic Macro Invertebrates, Testing Physical and Chemical Features of Water, Bird Watching and Nest Construction, Bug Bits, Little Big Things, Soils Ain't Soils, Exploration Trail nature walks, Seed Collection & Propagation, Tree Planting and A Coastal and Bush Pantry. We also have plans for new activities underway and help schools with designing gardens for veggies, bush food, indigenous plants, habitat or sensory gardens and tailor our activities to school needs. All information including a booking form can be found on our web page at <http://www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/education.html>

## Bass Coast Food Collective

We had been notified early in 2021 of the success of seeding grant to form the Bass Coast Food Collective, applied for from the Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grants program. BCLN are an auspice for this grant which will conduct research on local food systems, host community visioning sessions, then input this information into the development of a business case and branding as the Bass Coast Food Collective. The Bass Coast Food Collective has representatives in the initial steering committee who have been meeting regularly to drive this process from BCLN, Totally Renewable Phillip Island, Bass Coast Climate Action Network, PICAL, Philip Island Community Orchard and five local producers, making it a true community collaboration. We will host community visioning sessions later in the year to gather information on what people think is and isn't working in our local food system and how we can work together to fill the gaps, then feed this information into the production of the business case.

## River Garden

The River Garden at Bass is a Iha community, educational garden and trials site for horticultural innovations that can be applied across the region from a household to commercial scale. Co-conceived and co-created with the local community and BCLN since late 2017, there is currently an orchard, nuttury, hops, a series of swale beds on the slope with a berry trellis, espaliered fruit trees, kitchen garden perennial herb demonstration and annual vegetables plus a dung beetle nursery. We also host small business 'Colls Plants' run by Collen Asling and hope to host more small businesses at the river garden in the future that align with our principles of organic, regenerative management and cultivating community collaboration. There are also plans for a bush food demonstration garden, educational shelter, school gardens, and more. We see the future potential of the River Garden as a regional Landcare education centre, food hub and community garden space involving many facets of our community.

This year we retired our five-bed trial area due to weed invasions and lack of people power through successive lockdowns and restrictions. We have however had some great assistance to build new raised garden bed boxes, both from NDIS clients from Paul's Table and Horticulture certificate students from Bass Coast Adult Education. Horticulture students have also helped



prune our fruit trees and espaliers, which have proved a valuable teaching asset for local horticulture trainer, Adrian James, who's advice has been extremely valuable for us! We have had other great education and working days at the River Garden with VCAL students from St. Bede's College and Leongatha Secondary College who get an amazing amount done in one session and have really helped to keep the place going, big thanks to all involved.



*Leongatha Secondary College VCAL students in action, creating the 'All access Gardening' area.*

Other new groups joining us at the River Garden this year include a weekly group that have been visiting since January from Interchange who support and provide opportunities for people with disabilities. The new raised garden bed box area being formed at the bottom of the swales is slowly being developed into an 'all access' growing area for those with limited mobility and we will continue to look for grants and assistance to improve this area and offer learning experiences on growing fresh healthy food with easy access for all.



*Part of the new 'All access gardening area' in the process of being created at the bottom of the swales*

Still operating with limited hands, in low maintenance mode and with la nina still present as well, this has been a strange year for growing produce. Humidity has been high so spacing of plants has been wider to lessen potential fungal problems and less plantings due to less community involvement. We also suffered very heavy frosts this winter with carpets of crackly white covering the site. Our small grants through Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grants and Business resilience grants have allowed us to purchase materials, tools and supplies to keep up with maintenance requirements. Periodic assistance from our Working for Victoria crew of five helped us keep up with some of the heavier maintenance requirements and we thank them for all of their hard work to help keep the weeds at bay and keep things going when we couldn't have volunteers on site.





*Geocaching Group at their own  
River Garden Blitz day*

Despite the challenges, community engagement continues with the River Garden Blitz days starting again in early 2021. After lots of changes and postponements we were able to host three small sessions in March, April and May and also host a group of avid Geocachers in February. Our funding from ANZ through the Seeds of Renewal small grants to run five 'Family Fun' days focussing on biodiversity and environmental sustainability at the River Garden has been delayed with only one session run this year in conjunction with the April Blitz day on Composting and creative recycling with local permaculture guru Ric Coleman.

We are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to implement activities identified in our River Garden feasibility study in our three core areas of operation for the River Garden - Environmental Education, Community Gardening/volunteer engagement and Food production/trials in a community learning environment. We tried a different funding avenue this year through VicHealth and were successful in gaining \$49,994 to run new programs including River Garden Kids and Little kids for schools and playgroup aged children and parents, as well as support our ongoing River Garden Blitz volunteer days with interesting speakers and demonstrations.



*River Garden Blitz Volunteers*

By engaging more of our community and developing partnerships we aim to turn the River Garden into a self-supporting enterprise, which provides education to encourage innovation and diversification of food production and distribution in Bass Coast.

See you down at the River Garden!!



## BCLN Communications activities

The BCLN website continues to become a more valuable resource with the addition this year of numerous pages including new video sections, podcasts, controlling rabbits, foxes, cats, deer and pigs, Women on Farms, Arborists for Forests, Indigenous plants and the Sustainability Festival pages. Both Holly and Anna performed website and SEO reviews and we have implemented those recommendations and many suggestions for improvement from our members.

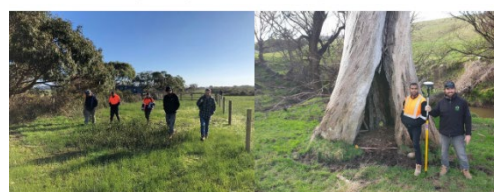
Our BCLN facebook page continues to get great engagement and increases in followers from 1600 in June 2020 to over 2000 in June 2021. Luke has started a new social media series on invasive weeds, and another social media series on 'What am I' highlighting our indigenous plants. We also now have an Instagram page, which started late in the last reporting period, and we have seen our followers slowly rise to 450 in June 2021. Our social media is where you will get the most up to date information, please like and share our pages!

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

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

The BCLN Enews continues to be a well-received source of monthly information on our various events, programs, grants and opportunities for our members, consistently getting high opening rates. In June 2021 it is now sent to over 1500 individual email addresses, compared to 1300 in June 2020. We are always looking for contributions, so if you have an interesting story, event, or photos to share we would love to hear from you.

Other communications work included a new program logo and communications plan for the new BCLN initiative started by Jye, Arborists for Forests. We also produced artwork for our Bunurong Land Council MOU agreement document and Branding for the Future Homes and Farms program and Sustainability Festival with numerous graphics for different advertising and video purposes.



Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation  
and Bass Coast Landcare Network

Establishing commitment to a mutually beneficial relationship based upon the goals and aspirations of Bunurong people and the Bass Coast Landcare Network.



We completed a branding survey of our staff, board members and group presidents to gather information to feed into our re-branding and communications plan updates that we are working on and hoping to roll out later in the year or early into 2022. The result of this work will be a Branding Toolkit with new imagery, refined key messages, and it will outline our BCLN personality, vision, and values. Then our style guide, stationery, and online presences, will all be revamped and designed to better engage you, our members, and local communities in more of our activities, projects, events and gatherings.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30 JUNE 2021



BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

		2021	2020
Revenues from ordinary activities	2	1,588,242	1,745,865
Employee expenses		(1,211,978)	(1,086,754)
Depreciation expense	3	(44,321)	(44,276)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(401,533)	(544,295)
Loss on disposal assets		(1,389)	(465)
Interest expense		(744)	(2,477)
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>		<b>(71,723)</b>	<b>67,598</b>
Cash Flow Boost		-	100,000
Job keeper income		327,000	153,000
<b>Total COVID-19 funding received</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>327,000</b>	<b>253,000</b>
<b>Net operating surplus</b>		<b>255,277</b>	<b>320,598</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to the members of the association</b>		<b>255,277</b>	<b>320,598</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	NOTE	2021	2020
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit – BCLN Reserve		600,000	400,000
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit – Leave		199,525	147,612
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit – Capacity Building		137,049	136,435
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits - General		595,925	256,377
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account		538,882	184,885
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>2,071,381</b>	<b>1,125,309</b>
Accounts receivable		124,602	156,956
Less provision for doubtful debts		(227)	(310)
<b>Total accounts receivable</b>		<b>124,375</b>	<b>156,646</b>
Accrued interest		464	3,243
Prepayments		6,351	3,463
Sundry debtors		-	111,250
<b>Total other current assets</b>		<b>6,815</b>	<b>117,956</b>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,202,571</b>	<b>1,406,994</b>
Plant & equipment	3	244,116	217,824
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>244,116</b>	<b>217,824</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,446,687</b>	<b>1,617,735</b>
Accounts payable & accrued expenses		66,631	43,462
Bendigo Bank BCLN Mastercard		1,387	2,109
Project balances carried forward	7	700,817	241,763
Income received in advance		2,000	2,201
Employee entitlements		210,968	172,113
BAS payable		87,266	25,627
Finance lease liabilities (current)	6	1,669	9,788
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>1,070,738</b>	<b>497,063</b>
Finance lease liabilities (non-current)	6	-	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,070,738</b>	<b>497,063</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,375,949</b>	<b>1,120,672</b>
BCLN reserve		600,000	400,000
Retained surplus		520,672	400,074
Current year surplus		255,277	320,598
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>1,375,949</b>	<b>1,120,672</b>

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 2021

	Retained Surplus	Reserves	Total
<b>Balance at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>400,074</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>800,074</b>
Surplus attributable to members	320,598	-	320,598
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>720,672</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>1,120,672</b>
Surplus attributable to members	255,277	-	255,277
Transfer funds to reserve	(200,000)	200,000	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>775,949</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>1,375,949</b>

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 2021

	NOTE	2021	2020
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers and funding bodies		2,280,105	1,770,023
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,700,740)	(1,777,558)
Interest received		9,322	18,409
Cash Flow Boost and JobKeeper received		438,250	141,750
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,026,937</b>	<b>152,624</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(72,002)	(91,679)
Proceeds of sale of equipment		-	8,000
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(72,002)</b>	<b>(83,679)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Transfers from term deposits (net)		(592,075)	(20,330)
Lease repayments of finance lease		(8,863)	(28,302)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<b>(600,938)</b>	<b>(48,632)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash for the period</b>		<b>353,997</b>	<b>20,313</b>
Cash at beginning of period		184,885	164,572
<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>538,882</b>	<b>184,885</b>

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 2021**

**NOTE 1: RECONCILIATION OF CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS** **2021** **2020**

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	538,882	184,885
Cash on hand	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>538,882</b>	<b>184,885</b>

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

Net operating surplus 255,277 320,598

Non-cash flows in operating surplus:

Depreciation & amortisation	44,321	44,276
Loss on disposal of assets	1,389	465
Interest expense in lease repayments	744	2,477

Changes in assets and liabilities:

(Increase) / decrease in receivables & accrued income	143,412	(167,653)
Increase / (decrease) in tax payable	61,639	(12,897)
Increase / (decrease) in project income in advance	458,853	(48,850)
Increase / (decrease) in trade creditors & accruals	22,447	(7,138)
Increase / (decrease) in employee leave entitlements	38,855	21,346

**Net cash & cash equivalents provided by operating activities** **1,026,937** **152,624**

**BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.**

**A0048273Z**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**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 26 October 2021.

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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 2021

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 2021

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 2021 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 2021.

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 2021

<b>NOTE 2: REVENUE</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Grants and partnership income received	1,201,053	1,402,847
Project management/network services	20,142	51,082
Fee for service income	356,574	268,396
Interest income	6,543	18,087
Sundry/other income	3,930	5,453
<b>Total operating income received</b>	<b>1,588,242</b>	<b>1,745,865</b>

**NOTE 3: PLANT & EQUIPMENT**

Leasehold improvements	90,444	72,643
Accumulated depreciation	(40,588)	(36,869)
<b>Written down value</b>	<b>48,856</b>	<b>35,774</b>
Plant & equipment	186,617	172,905
Accumulated depreciation	(114,837)	(103,286)
<b>Written down value</b>	<b>71,780</b>	<b>69,619</b>
Office furniture & equipment	29,677	42,379
Accumulated depreciation	(20,149)	(29,440)
<b>Written down value</b>	<b>9,528</b>	<b>12,939</b>
Motor vehicles	207,600	171,315
Accumulated amortisation	(94,648)	(71,823)
<b>Written down value</b>	<b>112,952</b>	<b>99,492</b>
<b>Total plant &amp; equipment at written down value</b>	<b>244,116</b>	<b>217,824</b>

**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.

	<b>Leasehold Improvements</b>	<b>Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Office Furniture</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance at start	<b>35,774</b>	<b>69,619</b>	<b>12,939</b>	<b>99,492</b>	<b>217,824</b>
Additions	17,800	17,917	-	36,285	<b>72,002</b>
Depreciation	(3,718)	(14,367)	(3,411)	(22,825)	<b>(44,321)</b>
Disposals (net)	-	(1,389)	-	-	<b>(1,389)</b>
<b>Balance at end</b>	<b>48,856</b>	<b>71,780</b>	<b>9,528</b>	<b>112,952</b>	<b>244,116</b>

**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 2021

**NOTE 6: FINANCE LEASE LIABILITIES**

<b>Finance Leases</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Payable - Not later than 1 year	1,875	11,625
- Between 1 year and 2 years	-	-
- Between 2 years and 5 years	-	-
	<b>1,875</b>	<b>11,625</b>
Less future finance charges	(206)	(1,837)
<b>Present value of minimum lease payments</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>9,788</b>
<b>Represented in the financial report by:</b>		
Current lease liability	1,669	9,788
Non-current lease liability	-	-
<b>Total lease liability</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>9,788</b>

**NOTE 7: PROJECT BALANCES**

Opening project balances	241,763	266,784
Income received into project accounts	1,151,457	849,296
Funds transferred to Bass Coast Landcare Network	(533,707)	(571,096)
Expenses paid out from projects (recognised as income)	(158,696)	(303,221)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>700,817</b>	<b>241,763</b>

**NOTE 8: COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

In March 2020, a global pandemic for COVID-19 coronavirus was declared by the World Health Organisation. As a result, COVID-19 restrictions were introduced, with the Australian Federal Government announcing financial stimulus packages, including the ATO *Cash Flow Boost* and *Job Keeper*.

The association was entitled to an initial Cash Flow Boost of \$50,000 for the period from March to June 2020 and was therefore entitled to the second payment of \$50,000 as at 30 June 2020. The amount not received by 30 June 2020 of \$60,250 was accrued as income at 30 June 2020 in accordance with AASB1058.

The association was also entitled to participate in the JobKeeper scheme. \$327,000 was received for the period from July to December 2020 and \$153,000 was received in the prior year.

BCLN has continued to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. BCLN staff are classified as Authorised workers, which has enabled BCLN to continue to operate during various lockdowns throughout the 2020-21 financial year. The office team have mainly worked from home and the works crew have continued to operate following the COVID-19 safe plan.

The main impact of the pandemic has been the inability to utilise volunteers to help get trees in the ground and reduced ability for Landcare groups to meet in person which has reduced in person activities. It is hoped as the broader community gets vaccinated that things will open up more freely and BCLN will again be able to stage larger tree planting and sustainable agriculture events in the near future.

The JobKeeper program provided a significant boost to available funds in the early part of the year, which helped BCLN maintain employment of staff, particularly in the works crew to plant trees. In an ordinary year, this work would be performed by volunteers.



BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

A0048273Z

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

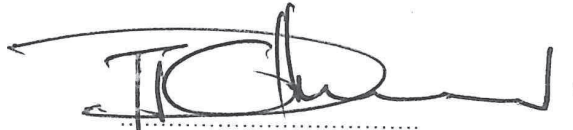
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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



.....  
Ric Oldham

Treasurer



.....  
Roger Lee

26 October 2021

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK INC.  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Bass Coast Landcare Network Inc., which comprises the **Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2021, 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 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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 2021 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 – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, 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

8 November 2021

## 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 2021.

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

19 October 2021



**Bass Coast Landcare Network**  
**Profit & Loss**  
Financial Year ended 30 June 2021

	Jul 20 - Jun 21	Jul 19 - Jun 20	\$ Change
Dept Eco Develop, Jobs, Transport & Revenue	7,711.74	19,351.26	(11,639.52)
Dept Industry, Innovation & Science	5,596.00	8,676.00	(3,080.00)
Dept of Envir, Land Water	198,772.10	238,035.46	(39,263.36)
Pt Phillip & Wport CMA	44,364.91	112,629.04	(68,264.13)
West Gippsland CMA	5,726.75	22,172.93	(16,446.18)
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>262,171.50</b>	<b>400,864.69</b>	<b>(138,693.19)</b>
 Bass Coast Shire Council	 327,477.24	 255,529.20	 71,948.04
Greening Australia	13,220.00	-	13,220.00
Holcim	9,585.00	28,826.00	(19,241.00)
Landcare Australia	16,358.00	-	16,358.00
Melbourne Water	48,022.63	39,568.31	8,454.32
Partnerships	-	7,224.00	(7,224.00)
Phillip Island Nature Parks	23,252.82	21,720.00	1,532.82
South Gippsland Landcare Group	241,200.03	288,851.51	(47,651.48)
Vic Roads	-	4,500.00	(4,500.00)
Westernport Catchment LN	50,949.96	-	50,949.96
Westernport Water	50,120.00	52,542.00	(2,422.00)
<b>Total Partnerships</b>	<b>780,185.68</b>	<b>698,761.02</b>	<b>81,424.66</b>
 Bass Valley Landcare Group	 705.00	 10,319.14	 (9,614.14)
Kongwak Hills Landcare Group	-	2,732.00	(2,732.00)
Korumburra Landcare Group	8,000.00	5,904.36	2,095.64
Phillip Island Landcare Group	4,760.00	4,544.00	216.00
Powlett Project	5,166.63	20,056.63	(14,890.00)
Three Creeks Landcare Group	1,000.00	7,256.00	(6,256.00)
Wonthaggi Urban Landcare Group	510.00	270.00	240.00
<b>Total Project Management/Network Services</b>	<b>20,141.63</b>	<b>51,082.13</b>	<b>(30,940.50)</b>
 Fee for Service - Administration	 500.00	 -	 500.00
Fee for Service - Nursery	49,925.74	28,056.64	21,869.10
Fee for Service - Operational	30,829.86	36,450.57	(5,620.71)
Fee for Service - River Garden	-	2,500.00	(2,500.00)
Fee for Service - Works Crew	275,318.84	201,389.24	73,929.60
<b>Total Fee for Service</b>	<b>356,574.44</b>	<b>268,396.45</b>	<b>88,177.99</b>
 Interest Income	 6,543.19	 18,087.15	 (11,543.96)
Sundry/Other Income	3,929.73	5,452.55	(1,522.82)
Cash Flow Boost	-	100,000.00	(100,000.00)
JobKeeper Income	327,000.00	153,000.00	174,000.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>337,472.92</b>	<b>276,539.70</b>	<b>60,933.22</b>
 <b>TOTAL INCOME PER P&amp;L</b>	 <b>1,756,546.17</b>	 <b>1,695,643.99</b>	 <b>60,902.18</b>
 Movement in Project Balances			
Opening Project Balances	241,763.00	266,784.00	(25,021.00)
Net income received into project accounts	617,750.00	278,200.00	339,550.00
Expenses paid out of project accounts	(158,696.00)	(303,221.00)	144,525.00
Closing Project Balances	(700,817.00)	(241,763.00)	(459,054.00)
<b>Net Project Balances</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
 Income per P&L	 1,756,546.17	 1,695,643.99	 60,902.18
Add expenses paid out of project accounts	158,696.00	303,221.00	(144,525.00)
<b>TOTAL INCOME PER FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	<b>1,915,242.17</b>	<b>1,998,864.99</b>	<b>(83,622.82)</b>

**Bass Coast Landcare Network**  
**Profit & Loss**  
Financial Year ended 30 June 2021

	<b>Jul 20 - Jun 21</b>	<b>Jul 19 - Jun 20</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
<b>Administration Expenses</b>			
Asset & Equipment Purchases	13,898.69	4,005.76	9,892.93
Audit & Accounting Fees	4,200.00	4,550.00	(350.00)
Bank Charges	279.54	317.52	(37.98)
Board/Governance Charges	10,408.72	8,358.65	2,050.07
Computer Expenses	19,076.68	14,632.22	4,444.46
Depreciation	44,321.63	44,275.50	46.13
Donation Expense	-	605.00	(605.00)
Doubtful Debts Expense	(1,022.50)	7,082.62	(8,105.12)
Insurance - General	11,317.46	9,737.08	1,580.38
Member/Group Support Ser	181.82	-	181.82
Office Expenses	6,961.33	7,771.93	(810.60)
Repairs & Maintenance	6,845.10	7,242.17	(397.07)
Sundry Expenses	1,428.19	499.90	928.29
Telephone & Internet	9,828.26	11,457.36	(1,629.10)
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>127,724.92</b>	<b>120,535.71</b>	<b>7,189.21</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Works Crew Expenses	49,783.42	42,918.36	6,865.06
Advertising & Promotion	1,417.09	2,179.66	(762.57)
Contractors/Consultants	8,518.50	6,303.54	2,214.96
Event Expenses	2,847.44	1,631.93	1,215.51
Tubestock	-	368.30	(368.30)
Weed Control	-	415.00	(415.00)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>62,566.45</b>	<b>53,816.79</b>	<b>8,749.66</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>			
Wage payments	1,120,316.75	996,988.18	123,328.57
Superannuation/On costs	105,231.94	89,765.39	15,466.55
Paid Parental Leave Reimbursement	(13,570.20)	-	(13,570.20)
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>1,211,978.49</b>	<b>1,086,753.57</b>	<b>125,224.92</b>
<b>Other Employment Costs</b>			
Health & Safety	10,150.68	5,555.94	4,594.74
Medical Costs	68.41	325.00	(256.59)
Motor Vehicle Expenses	48,193.10	55,917.70	(7,724.60)
Phone/Internet Allowance	1,481.81	1,010.00	471.81
Recruitment	-	1,269.82	(1,269.82)
Travel km Reimbursment	7,602.91	9,288.38	(1,685.47)
Travel - Other	258.94	867.89	(608.95)
Staff Amenities	338.64	1,812.22	(1,473.58)
Staff Clothing/Uniforms	3,249.12	3,422.39	(173.27)
Training & Development	15,694.10	21,742.50	(6,048.40)
Workcover Insurance	9,829.36	9,785.60	43.76
<b>Total Other Employment Costs</b>	<b>96,867.07</b>	<b>110,997.44</b>	<b>(14,130.37)</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Interest Expense	744.29	2,477.30	(1,733.01)
Loss on Disposal of Assets	1,388.64	464.72	923.92
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>2,132.93</b>	<b>2,942.02</b>	<b>(809.09)</b>
<b>Total expenses per P&amp;L</b>	<b>1,501,269.86</b>	<b>1,375,045.53</b>	<b>126,224.33</b>
<b>Add expenses paid out of project accounts</b>	<b>158,696.00</b>	<b>303,221.00</b>	<b>(144,525.00)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES PER FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	<b>1,659,965.86</b>	<b>1,678,266.53</b>	<b>(18,300.67)</b>
<b>Net Surplus per financial report</b>	<b>255,276.31</b>	<b>320,598.46</b>	<b>(65,322.15)</b>



BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK

PUBLIC FUND

ABN: 13 136 824 392

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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

**INCOME STATEMENT**

**FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Donations received	420	1,000
Interest received	4	19
<b>Total income</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1,019</b>
Audit fee	250	250
Bank fees	12	19
Event expenses	80	-
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>750</b>
Less grants provided	-	(5,000)
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>(4,250)</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2021**

Bendigo Bank account	13,169	13,039
Trade receivables	-	49
GST receivable	4	3
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>13,091</b>
Trade creditors	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>13,091</b>
Opening balance equity	13,091	17,341
Current year surplus / (deficit)	82	(4,250)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>13,091</b>

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 2021**

**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 2021 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**

**11 November 2021**