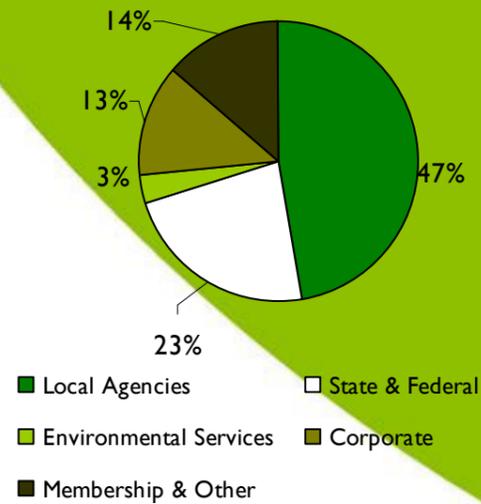
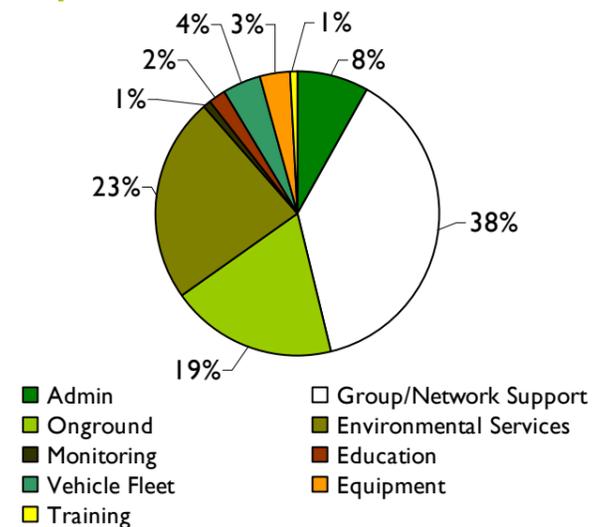


# Bass Coast Landcare Statistics

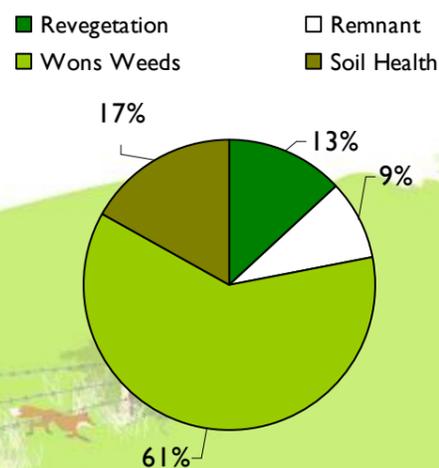
## Sources as a proportion of Income



## Expenditure of \$1.7 million 12/13



## Hectares of On Ground Works



# Bass Coast Landcare Values

The core values of the Bass Coast Landcare Network 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.

## Cohesion

Strive to cooperate and collaborate – to be cohesive.

## Respect

Tolerance and respect for the diversity of views and the values in the community.

## Excellence

Strive for high standards in everything we do – the community and future generations deserve the best.

## Optimism

We look for solutions, a positive outcome and are optimistic of success

## Integrity

Integrity and Honesty are cornerstones of the success and sustainability of this community organisation

## Trust

Maintain confidence and trust in each other and the future.



# Bass Coast Landcare Network Annual Report Card 2012 - 2013



## Bass Coast Landcare at a Glance

The Bass Coast Landcare Network is made up of 10 Landcare Groups which service over 900 members from farming families, urban residents, agencies and corporate partners.

The main aim of the Bass Coast Landcare Network is to promote land use and management that ensures integrity and sustainability of land, water and biodiversity.

The Networks core purpose is to provide support and resources to the groups within the Network to assist them in achieving their aims and objectives.

During the 2012-2013 planting season, 141,600 indigenous tube stock were planted along with 16kg of seed spread across direct seeding sites.

42.87km of fencing around 87.01ha of remnant and 123.45ha of revegetation of which

- 14ha of erosion stabilised
- 9.94ha of steep land retired
- 42.06ha riparian area fenced
- 54.45ha of other reveg
- 3ha of direct seeding

Totalling an area of 210.46ha

600ha of WoNS weeds controlled with another 167 ha of Soil Health works

The Network staff secured \$1,744,940 of funding through 15 different projects and held 42 field days with a total of 1025 attendees

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## Land Stewardship

2012/13 is the final year of Funding for this project so the Westernport Land Stewardship Project has begun to scale down its operations.

## Education and Training

This year the Bass Coast Landcare Network Biodiversity fund project had set funds aside to create a new course for farmers wanting to undertake revegetation projects and manage the vegetation on their properties. This will be run as a series of field days with topics including; revegetation techniques, weed control, collecting and direct seeding, increasing biodiversity, fencing, value of revegetation to production on properties, monitoring and assessing vegetation health and much more.

Phillip Island Landcare group recognised the need to up-skill volunteers in seed collection and plant identification and were successful in gaining funding for a project titled 'Building skills to conserve and increase biodiversity in Island revegetation' from the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA. Working with the Barb Martin Bushbank Community Indigenous Nursery, eight workshop days were held with over 80 people attending.

The Wonthaggi Urban Landcare Group has also been busy updating their weed identification skills in a number of sessions with Parks Victoria rangers over the year at the Tank Hill reserve.

In August 2013 we received \$55,000 of funding from the Australian Government Caring for our Country program for a new project to enhance our training programs called 'Peer to Peer learning - local Bass Coast farmers finding solutions'. This will include reviewing the reports listed above and a training needs analysis to help us deliver current, topical training to assist our local landholders. This funding will also provide continuing support for our farmer discussion groups, an 'on ground' trials component and a field day to showcase results from the on ground trials.

This new funding will ensure a continued relationship with the farmer discussion groups and keep the Bass Coast Landcare area at the forefront of innovation into the future.

Projects for this last year were limited and have been capped at \$2000 for soils based projects and \$3000 for revegetation based projects in line with the available budget. This year also saw the engagement of Ross Colliver to undertake an overall review of the life of the Land Stewardship project. All parties who had involvement in the project assisted Ross with data and observations of their participation for the purpose of this review.

The BCLN remained the primary project proponent however it helped maintain the successful and strong partnerships with, the South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN), Westernport Catchments Landcare Network (WPCLN), Department of Sustainability and Environment-EcoMarkets (DSE), Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) and Melbourne Water. These partners manage the project

## Corporate Services

Partnerships continue to be an integral component of the Bass Coast Landcare Network's Operations. One of the true successes of the Bass Coast Landcare Network is the development of these partnerships. Successful partnerships bring credibility to our network, groups and projects. Nothing opens doors better than a recommendation from peer agencies or corporations. Bass Coast Landcare Network engages partners in projects or programs rather than discreet events. Alignment of partner requirements with Landcare group's priority outputs forms the basis of many of our relationships. The creation of both agency and corporate partnerships has provided our Landcare Network and its groups with an opportunity to become more creative, take on greater challenges and have more flexibility in program development and delivery.

This year we saw ongoing partnerships exist with Bass Coast Shire Council, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, GDF Suez Australian Energy, General Motors Holden, Monash University, Phillip Island Nature Park, Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, South Gippsland Water, West Gippsland CMA and Woolworths. Vic Roads, Origin Energy and Jemena continue to engage in the Bass Coast Landcare Network through our offsetting Program. These partnerships combined make up 25% of our overall budget and target catchment wide restoration.

**Our vision** is to be a lead organisation in demonstrating what is possible in best practice land management by testing ideas and driving innovation. We are a provider of 'high quality' environmental services to individuals and organisations. We are an effective Community of Practice with most landholders in the region (at least 80 percent) actively participating in Network or Group activities. We provide the leadership to support members in collaborating in practical ways as well as in sharing ideas and knowledge. Our members are evolving into land stewards and understand how they contribute to a sustainable, productive landscape that supports healthy communities

## Innovative Approaches to Land Management

The Research Strategy continues to guide the main areas of research around beneficial practices in farm management. Chris Alenson's work on the soil health score card and rapid soil assessment has expanded the opportunities for landholders to look at soils in a more holistic way get involved in on farm soil health research. Continuing on from this Monash University have been undertaking research into coal derived soil additives.

This year has also seen the incorporation of weed control works as a part of our grant assistance for landholders to tackle quite challenging revegetation projects. This has led to projects of much larger scale being undertaken by the Network.

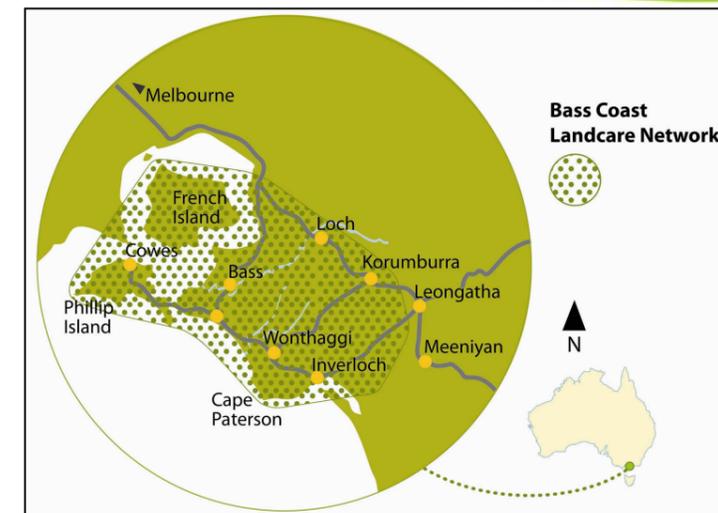
Different forms of cost effective revegetation have been a focus this year. Niche direct seeding has been expanded and used in numerous areas. This is a good, cost effective, way of undertaking steep slope revegetation and may provide landholders with these types of areas a less daunting way of revegetating their steep land.

The Works Crew developed by Bass Coast Landcare Network in 2006 continues to provide specialist services to assist landholders with environmental and sustainable agriculture works. They have further developed to undertake environmental works on public land, and wish to offer further traineeships in the environmental field. This year the crew have developed a business plan and identified growth areas to move into. Training is currently underway to enable the crew to offer a diversity of services in innovative land management.

## Governance

The BCLN Board continue to provide wise council and strategic direction for the Network. The Board is ably assisted in its management responsibilities by the Finance & Audit Committee, the Human Resources Advisory Committee, the Policy and Procedures Committee and the Communications Committee as well as port-folio holders in Weeds, CMA liaison, Land Stewardship, Training and Projects.

A review of the BCLN Strategic Plan was undertaken on February with a view to developing measurement factors for the Network. This new look plan will guide activities into 2015 and an Operational Plans for each key area of activity.



## Strengthen Engagement with rural communities

Providing support to the member Landcare Groups continued to be a focus of Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN). BCLN continued to facilitate the employment of the 16 staff who support the Landcare Groups and Network in various capacities. These staff developed and managed 15 projects through which \$1.7million of funds was secured, 42 field days were held and 1025 people attended.

Support is given to each Landcare Group to identify and take action on important issues. Examples of issues are:

- Re-invigorating membership, committee governance and succession planning
- Recognising and celebrating achievements
- Monitoring and reviewing Action Plans
- Creating a Welcome Pack for use by each Group

Processes to strengthen and link Landcare Group priorities into Network planning has been a major focus, including:

- Group reviews into Network planning to ensure Group priorities are included in actions and projects
- A review of the Communications Strategy
- Reviewing and improving processes regularly

The quarterly BCLN Newsletter has moved to an electronic format which has been widely accepted. The network also issues a monthly eNews so that members, corporates and groups stay up to date with events, information and funding opportunities.

The networks main port of call for all information is the website which will see some further improvements to its design in the coming year. The network is embracing the use of online media in the form of Facebook and YouTube and is looking to branch out into twitter in the coming year.

