

# 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT





**Growing and Supporting Community Landcare** 

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The WA Landcare Network acknowledges First Nations Peoples as the traditional custodians of the continent, the first landcarers, and we recognise and learn from their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and are keen to grow our partnerships with Aboriginal custodians and community members, to care for country together.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Reflecting on my message from last year's report when I said that 2019-2020 had been a period like most of us have never experienced, who could have guessed it would roll into a second year of global pandemic?

We have been so very lucky in WA with many of us able to continue to deliver in our jobs in the environment sector, gaining momentum and feeling like we are actively making a difference during the climate crisis we face together as a globe.



As a dynamic organisation WALN has had some internal movements, with committee members joining and others leaving and I offer thanks to them all for their contributions. I must make mention of the departure of Keith Bradby OAM, and the vast and strategic contribution he has made to WALN as Chair and Deputy Chair, we offer heartfelt thanks. The shared passion, commitment and giving of their time freely by our management committee makes us possible! We must also recognise the mammoth contribution and strategic guidance provided by our Executive Officer, Dr Louise Duxbury.

This is a small and hard-working organisation continually seeking to improve our offer to members, to give them a single, collective voice to raise issues, concerns and needs with government and others. By working together I believe we can help restore Western Australia's environment and protect it from further degradation wherever possible.

We have put to good use funds from the State NRM Program, with Kylie Payne as the new Landcare Networker. Kylie has continued to spread the WALN brand growing our Ordinary Membership by 10% and our Associate Membership by 52%, and working with Executive Officer, Dr Louise Duxbury and Communications Officer, Caroline Hughes to deliver our very popular 'Landcare Checks In', a series of innovative online zoom sessions with guest speakers, providing members and the general community with information and capacity building. We also enjoyed having Glenice Batchelor make a contribution to WALN for a short period as Co-Executive Officer and we are delighted to have negotiated the services of Dr Pierre Bouvais, to join us in July as Coastal and Marine Network Facilitator.

Additionally, we were able to undertake some very strategic workshops and collaborative forums with existing and potential local, regional, state and national partners. Only by working together more effectively in our sector can we deliver real outcomes for the environment and co-benefits for the community. The WALN Members Survey was well supported with members sharing their concerns and thoughts on future opportunities and these will inform us going forward.

Unfortunately, our bid to deliver the 2021 State NRM & Coastal Conference was unsuccessful this year but we look forward to supporting the conference through our involvement on a number of key committees. It is a big event in the landcare calendar, and we look forward to seeing you in Mandurah in 2022 to celebrate our landcare champions and share with each other stories of our challenges and successes.

I could not close without thanking and commending the WALN committee, staff and all our members for their continued support and passion. Your input and experience has helped steer WALN through challenging and exciting times this year and I know WALN is well equipped to tackle whatever the future holds!

**Mick Davis** 

Chairperson, WA Landcare Network

## WHO IS THE WA LANDCARE NETWORK?

## 'A Collective Independent Voice for WA landcare

The WA Landcare Network (WALN) is the peak state landcare body established to represent and support the network of diverse community organisations working together to address Western Australia's most challenging environmental problems.

To support and foster effective landcare in Western Australia WALN:

- acknowledges Indigenous Australians as the first landcarers of our country and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community. WALN welcomes indigenous custodians into the landcare community and wishes to engage, partner and share knowledge to jointly care for country.
- recognises and values the landcare community as the grassroots carers for the WA environment and our State's future. The WALN network is open to all organisations with an interest in landcare. WALN is effectively owned by grassroots landcarers. WALN not only connects landcare groups of all shapes and sizes, it provides landcare information and resources, and represents landcare across the State.
- strives to be a collective independent voice for landcare and advocates on behalf of the landcare community at a State and Federal level based on a real-time understanding of what's happening on the ground. WALN hopes through strong advocacy on behalf of grassroots landcare we can build better support and capability for landcare in WA.
- aims to build a landcare network that supports and strengthens the capability of landcare groups and individuals and enables them to get the landcare job done. WALN aims to assist landcarers to undertake their work and build strong state, national public and private support and involvement. WALN believes through increased support, coordination and capacity the landcare community can collectively achieve better environmental outcomes for WA.



## **Growing and Supporting Community Landcare**

#### **Vision**

A supported network of diverse community organisations working together to address Western Australia's most challenging environmental problems and building communities able to respond positively to changes; resulting in a natural environment with fully functional ecosystems, a sustainable and productive agricultural system; and healthy, happy and resilient communities.

#### **Mission**

To establish an operating and useful landcare network in Western Australia that supports and strengthens the ability of member groups to undertake their work and have strong state, national public and private support and involvement.

## **Strategic Directions**



## **Advocate and Represent**

Listening to and sharing the collective voice of the WA Landcare movement with Federal and State decision makers



#### **Network and Consult**

Developing and increasing membership and stakeholder links while providing a wide range of opportunities for knowledge sharing



#### **Build and Sustain**

Securing resources and facilitating projects that accelerate positive landcare efforts



## **Strengthen Capability**

of WALN through good organisational governance and following sound principles

## 2020-21 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Established in 2014 the WA Landcare Network has recently completed its seventh year.

WALN is proud to report on the following key achievements against its four organisational objectives during the 2020-21 financial year:

## 1. Advocate for and Represent the WA Landcare Movement

- Continued to represent WA on the National Landcare Network Member Council and Board, providing input and advocating for improved federal funding and support for community landcare.
- Liaised closely with the National Landcare Network and State and Territory Organisations to find a way forward for a united voice for Landcare at the Federal level. This discussion is ongoing. Strong collaboration is occurring on major projects including Landcare Farming, the Roadmap for Community Landcare and a Bushfire Recovery Funding Proposal.
- Expanded the membership of the WA Landcare Network Committee with greater representation from across the State.
- Continued to provide support to WALN Member groups and the wider landcare community on COVID-19 issues including advocating for involvement of the landcare sector in WA State government post COVID economic stimulus and assistance to develop community-based proposals.
- Provided input to the collective post-COVID stimulus proposal generated by the Conservation Council of WA to the Western Australia government.
- ❖ In partnership with Gondwana Link, Impact Seed and the Noongar Land Enterprise Group developed a significant funding proposal to the Global Ever Greening Alliance Restore Australia Program and a range of other potential funds for restoration activities across the Wheatbelt and south coast regions.
- Supported Greening Australia as a key partner in their EOI as Lead Delivery Organisation for aspects of the State Government Green Jobs Stimulus Package.
- Liaised with State Government agencies regarding the formation of the Landcare Restoration Fund and its priorities and processes for delivery.
- ❖ Participated in discussions about climate resilience with State Government agencies and the Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food at a Climate Resilience Forum held at Muresk.
- ❖ Facilitated landcare community input and prepared submissions on behalf of the WALN members and the wider landcare community to the following review processes:
  - Independent Review of the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
  - Federal Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements Submission
  - Western Australian Revised Soil Health Strategy Submission
  - Support for landcare response post Cyclone Seroja Letter to the Minister
  - Citizen Science Wildlife Licencing three online discussion and Letters to Ministers
- Assisted the WA Coastal and Marine Community Network with an online presence, newsletter editorial and recruitment process for a part-time Coastal and Marine Officer.

## 2. Network, Consult and Communicate with Members and the Broader Landcare Movement

- ❖ Increased Ordinary Membership from 119 to 133 groups (10% increase) and its Associate Membership from 19 to 40 members (52% increase) during the financial year increasing WALN's reach in the landcare community.
- Submitted an EOI to deliver the 2021 State NRM and Coastal Conference. While this bid was unsuccessful, WALN was successful in securing the contract to host WA Landcare Awards 2021 in partnership with the State NRM office on behalf of Landcare Australia Limited.
- Successfully conducted WALN's 2020 Annual General Meeting online on 12 November 2020. Around 50 landcarers attended the online event from across the State and were provided with six online presentations by landcare champions from the Kimberley to the south coast.
- ❖ Joined a range of metropolitan landcare groups in the Landcare Tent at the Perth Garden Festival in May 2021 providing a landcare promotional and educational opportunity for the general public.
- Continued to expand the WALN website www.landcarewa.org.au providing an information hub for WALN members and the wider landcare community.
- Showcased 13 landcare success stories during National Landcare Week through social media and newsletter channels.
- Opened nominations for the 2021 WA Landcare Awards recognising landcarer champions in eight categories. Significant planning is now underway for the Awards Gala Presentations in November 2021 to be run in conjunction with the annual 2021 WA Landcare Network AGM and Network Gathering.
- Developed a landcare enquiry register and responded to 37 landcare enquires generated through the WA Landcare Network website.
- Maintained regular communications with WALN members and the wider landcare community through monthly newsletters, member emails and social media. Visit the WALN Facebook Page.





## 3. Sustain and Build Capacity of the WA Landcare Movement

- Continued to promote the WA Landcare Insurance Scheme to members and the wider landcare community to significantly lower costs and provide affordable insurance to a range of landcare groups.
- Conducted 19 Landcare Checks In sessions as an online opportunity for landcarers to regularly come together to chat about landcare issues. Topics covered in 2020-2021 included feral cats, farmer led response to climate change, State Soil Health Strategy, WA Coastal and Marine Community Network, biosecurity, dieback, pollinators, citizen science, planting season debrief, seed collection and propagation, cane toads, native grasses, 2021 Election, State Soil Strategy follow up, Western ringtail possums, feral pigs, native grasses in the Rangelands, carbon industry overview and citizen science wildlife licensing.
- Developed and promoted a series of Ecological Restoration Case Studies to showcase successful ecological restoration across Western Australia. The series adds to the Aboriginal Collaboration and Salinity Case Study series previously developed.
- ❖ Partnered with Gondwana Link to fund the development of the Carbon Industry Overview A new guide to the carbon farming industry providing easy information for farmers, landcarers and the community about carbon projects, carbon markets and carbon industry players in Western Australia.
- Supported the Gillamii Centre to conduct a Regional Carbon Forum in March 2021. The Forum attended by 50 participants provided an understanding of the carbon farming industry and explored collaborative opportunities for landcare groups, managers and farmers.
- ❖ Undertook the planning for a range of regional landcare forums with local community landcare groups to be run during the 2021 − 2022 financial year.
- Developed a registry of groups offering corporate volunteering opportunities to enable quick response to corporate enquires to participate in landcare activities.
- Regularly promoted landcare funding and capacity building opportunities to the WA Landcare Network.

## 4. Strengthening WALN's capacity to facilitate landcare

- Secured ongoing National Landcare Program funding to continue to support and grow the WA Landcare Network and represent WA in landcare discussions at the Federal level.
- Developed a clear role for the WA Landcare Network in a number of major proposals for Restoration works on a landscape scale to grow WALN's capacity to support groups and facilitate collaboration in key areas of the State.
- Began delivery of the additional one-off \$300,000 Core Funding Package from the WA State Government enabling WALN to strengthen its reach and support to community coast and landcare groups. This included appointing the WALN Landcare Networker position.
- Planned, piloted and conducted the 2021 WA Landcare Network Community Landcare Survey to guide WA landcare Network priorities and advocacy.
- Reviewed and updated the WALN Action Plan 2021 to direct priorities of the organisation.



ACTION PLAN

2021

















CARBON INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

A guide to understanding carbon projects, carbon markets and carbon industry players in Western Australia

## WA LANDCARE NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

A strong WALN membership base helps demonstrate the level of grassroots support for landcare in WA.

Membership of the WA Landcare Network Inc (WALN) includes two classes of membership:

- Ordinary Membership open to any community group with an active interest in landcare; and
- Associate Membership open to individuals, local government authorities, businesses and research organisations engaged in landcare.

During 2020-2021 WALN undertook a membership drive resulting in an increase in Ordinary Membership from 119 to 133 groups (10% increase) and in Associate Membership from 19 to 40 members (52 % increase) increasing WALN's reach in the landcare community.

## MEMBER GROUPS 133 ORDINARY MEMBERS @ 30 June 2021

APACE AID Inc

Armadale Branch Wildflower Society of WA

Armadale City Rivercare Group

Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group Inc

Armadale Settlers Common Management Group

Augusta Community Nursery/Augusta Land and Coastcare

**Australian Coastal Society** 

Avon Valley Environmental Society Inc.

**Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation** 

Baigup Wetland Interest Group

Baldivis Children's Forest

Balingup Friends of the Forest

Bannister Creek Catchment Group

Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group Inc

Blackwood Basin Group

Blackwood Biosecurity Inc.

Blackwood Environment Centre

Bungendore Park Environment Group Inc.

Busselton Dunsborough Environment Centre Inc.

Canning River Residents Environment Protection Assoc Inc

Capel LCDC

Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund

Care For Hedland Environmental Association Inc.

Caring for the Avon River Environment Inc.

Carnamah LCDC

Chapman River Friends

Chittering Landcare Centre

Claise Brook Catchment Group

Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre Inc

Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor Inc

Conservation Council WA

Corrigin Farm Improvement Group

Cottesloe Coastcare Association

Denmark Environment Centre

Denmark Weed Action Group

Derby Landcare Group

**Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee** 

Dunsborough Coast and Land Care Inc.

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment

Management Group

**Environs Kimberley** 

Falcon Coastcare

Frenchman Bay Association

Friends of Booragoon and Bluegum Lakes

Friends of the Dale River

Friends of Gracetown and Cowaramup Bay

Friends of Hollis Park

Friends of Lake Claremont Limited

Friends of Meelup Regional Park Inc.

Friends of Mosman Park Bushland

Friends of North Ocean Reef – Iluka Foreshore

Friends of Paganoni Swamp

Friends of Piesse Brook Inc.

Friends of Queens Park Bushland

Friends of Samphire Cove Nature Reserve

Friends of Samson Park

Friends of Upper Lesmurdie Falls Inc

Gascovne Catchments Group

Geographe Catchment Council

Geographe Community Landcare Nursery Inc

Gillamii Centre Inc.

Gingin Water Group Inc.

Gondwana Link Ltd

Green Skills inc

Helena River Catchment Group Inc.

Jane Brook Catchment Group Inc.

Katanning LCDC

Kerkhof Carnaby Group

Landcare Serpentine Jarrahdale Inc

Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District

Committee

Lyndon Land Conservation District Committee

Ledge Point Coastcare

Leschenault Catchment Council

Lower Helena Association

Margaret River Regional Environment Centre

Moore Catchment Council Inc

Mullaloo Beach Community Group Inc National Trust of Western Australia

Nature Conservation Margaret River Region North Stirling Pallinup Natural Resources Inc.

North Swan Land Conservation District Committee (Bullsbrook

Landcare)

Northern Agricultural Catchments Council

Oil Mallee Association Origins Centre Soc. Inc

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Palomino Catchment Group Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Peel Region Western Ringtail Possum Action Group

Peron Naturaliste Partnership Inc

Perth NRM

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group Inc

Rangelands NRM WA

Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)

RegenWA

Revegetation Industry Association of WA

River Conservation Society Inc.

Roleybushcare Inc

Roebuck Bay Working Group

SERCUL: South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Inc

Singleton Coastcare

South Coast Management Group

South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.

South West and Peel Coastal Management Group (CoastSWaP)

South West Catchments Council

Susannah Brook Catchment Group Inc. Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group Inc. Talbot Brook Land Management Assoc. Inc.

The Katanning Wildflower Group Toby Inlet Catchment Group Inc. Toodyay Friends of the River Toodyay Naturalists' Club Inc. Torbay Catchment Group Inc

Trees4Australia

Trillion Trees (Formally Men of the Trees)

Undalup Association Inc. WA Landskills Inc

Wannamal Lake Catchment Group Warren Catchment Council Inc Waterbird Conservation Group Inc Western Australian Forest Alliance

West Koojan Gillingarra Land Conservation

District Committee Wheatbelt NRM Inc.

Wildflower Society of Western Australia

(Inc.)

Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee Inc.

Wilson Wetlands Action Group

Wirambi Landcare

WISALT Inc (Whittington Interceptor Sustainable Agriculture Land Treatment

Society)

Woodvale Waters Friends of Beenyup

Channel Group WoolkabunningKiaka

Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

## 40 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS @ 30 June 2021

Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products

Greg Shales
Shire of Kojonup
Wendy Wilkins
Jean Sloan
Linda Mertz
Wayne Clark
Shire of Mundaring
Sharon Mcarther

Plantrite - Wholesale Native Nursery

Human Nature Debby Wunhym Wai Yin Cheok Kooyar Wongi Growise

Western Australian Bird Conservation Network

Janette Huston Kerry Castles John Dickson

Kimbal Wayne Doepel

Sylvia Leighton Tim Overheu Glenice Batchelor Kathryn Johnson

Wright Veterinary Services

Chris Wyhoon

Eastern Hills Senior High School

Rebecca Palumbo Mark Luther Jane Kowald Sophie Willsher

Andrew Knight (BlueAnt Consulting) Woodland Services & Consulting

Lucy Commander Mark Ritchie Joshua Kimberley Bonnie Beal Richardson Charmaine Burke Dr Moira Maley

Jada Cowdrey

#### THE WALN TEAM

WALN operates with a volunteer Executive Committee representing members who work with contracted staff to provide benefits to members and raise the profile of landcare in WA.

The WALN Executive Committee meets monthly online to provide strategic and governance oversight to the operations of the organisation.

2021 WALN Office Bearers and Committee included:

Chair: Deputy
Chair:
Jo Ludbrook
Treasurer:
Helen Watkins
Secretary:
John Holley
Julian Sharp

Freya Spencer Carmen Elrick Barr

Sabian Wilde Chris Wyhoon Bruce Ivers

2020-21 part-time support staff included:

**Executive Officer** Dr Louise Duxbury

Co-Executive Officer/Landcare Networker (left April 2021) Glenice Batchelor

Landcare Networker Kylie Payne

**Communications and Administration Officer**Caroline Hughes



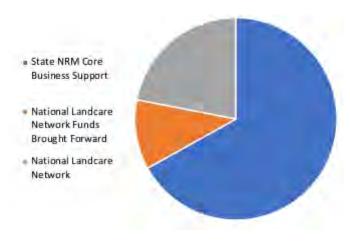
## FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2020-21 WALN secured two year funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program for Core Business Support. This grant funding significantly increased WALN's capacity and supplemented ongoing funding from the National Landcare Network.

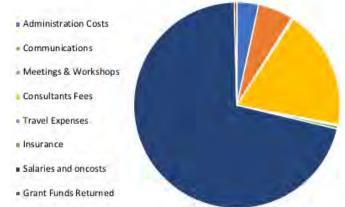
WALN began the 2019-20 financial year with substantial National Landcare Network grant funds carried forward. During this year WALN moved its part time staff to payroll, resulting in an increase in expenses for salaries and on costs and a reduction in consultancy costs. Travel costs were reduced during 2020-21 due to the COVID 19 travel restrictions.

WALN carried forward funds into the 2021-22 financial year due to advance payment of State NRM Program funds for activities extending into 2022.

#### 2020-2021 Income \$448,428



#### 2020-21 Expenditure \$139,505



#### **Breakdown of 2020-21 Income**

TOTAL INCOME	\$448,428
Interest	\$14
State NRM Program Core Business	\$300,000
National Landcare Program	\$98,386
2019-20 Funds Brought Forward	\$50,028

#### **Breakdown of 2020-21 Expenditure**

Administrations Costs	\$4,772
Communications	\$7,748
Consultants Fees	\$26,150
Insurance	\$644
Meetings and Workshops	\$418
Salaries and oncosts	\$98,903
Travel Expenses	\$304
Lotterywest Grant funds returned	\$566
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$139,505
Funds Carried Forward to 2020-21	\$308,923

Further details of 2020-21 Income and Expenditure are available in 'WA Landcare Network Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021' prepared by Independent Auditors Fong Richards, Certified Practicing Accountants and available for viewing by contacting WALN at enquiries@landcarewa.org.au.

#### THE YEAR AHEAD

As always WALN is extremely excited about what is on the horizon for the 2021 - 2022 financial year. The vision and the key tasks are outlined in our updated 2021-22 Action Plan.

Funding from the State Government for core business activities is being expended over 2021 and into 2022. This funding will continue to increase its networking role and support its members and the landcare community. It is clear that the steps taken to date have had positive results and will be furthered in the coming year.

Specifically, WALN will focus its energies on:

- supporting more groups through increased membership particularly in regional and northern areas of WA;
- preparing a Value of Landcare paper to show what community Coastcare and Landcare contributes to our communities and to the state of WA;
- advocate on behalf of community groups to increase recognition of value and seek to source funds accordingly;
- continue supporting the WA Marine and Coastal Community Network;
- implement the regional forums already planned and collaborate on new forums in 2022;
- continue Landcare Checks In sessions and online webinars on landcare hot topics;
- continue working with landcare groups to raise their profiles in the media;
- continue meeting with grower groups and Recognised Biosecurity Groups to explore collaboration and joint action; and
- collate local funding sources and offer marketing and fundraising capacity building support.

WALN continues its involvement in developing the Restoring the South West proposal, led by Gondwana Link and with a number of other key partners, to enable increased community based landcare efforts in the wheatbelt and south coast on a scale not seen before. The project aims to initiate landscape scale restoration, rebuilding ecological communities and regenerative agricultural systems that will build resilience to the challenges from climate change, drought and bushfire. Investing in local capacity is central to this project. There are several funding paths being explored.

WALN will continue to play a major role in advocating for restoring and rebuilding both natural landscapes and local communities across our state.

WALN, as part of the National Landcare Network, will be developing a landcare policy statement to inform all parties about the value and needs of community coast and landcare ahead of the Federal Election anticipated in 2022.

WALN will seek to grow its communication and engagement activities to assist our members and stakeholders to get the landcare job done.





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