

Summary of LCG Board Meeting, April 5, 2016

Present: Andrea Mason (Chair), Peter Cameron (Treasurer), Sandra Weller (Secretary), Talia Barrett (Board member), Adrian Newman (Board Member), Heather Fagg (Board member), Nick McKinley (LCG Coordinator), Jane Beverlander (Yarrowee Project Officer), Karen O'Keefe (Regional Catchment Coordinator, CCMA) and Tracy (Landcare Coordinator, CCMA).

Apologies: David Turley (Assistant Treasurer), Louisa Jane Cunningham (Board member) and Xenon Ellis (Board member).

Prior to the board meeting the second CLEA workshop was held, with Board members and representatives from the CCMA present as indicated above as well as members from Pootilla-Wattle Flat, Garibaldi, and Napoleons Landcare Groups. A productive discussion was held that explored some ideas to improve communication between the board and Landcare groups. It was suggested that twice-yearly events be held to allow members of the board and all Landcare Groups to meet socially and discuss issues of mutual interest. Following a dinner of pizza, the representatives of the Landcare Groups left.

The Board meeting then opened with a discussion about the current status of the Scotsburn Fire recovery process.

Main points:

- Funding is being sought for funding involvement of LCG Coordinator for supporting the community as it recovers from the fires
- Events held so far have included regular community barbeque get-togethers for those affected by the fires
- Proposed future events include workshops to assist affected residents

Tracey McCrae gave a few details about the upcoming Landcare conference and Karen gave a brief outline of achievements so far of the Landcare Facilitor Program.

Jane Beverlander, our new Yarrowee Project Officer, has been busy with several on-going LCG projects and some new ones. For the Breathing Life Back into the Yarrowee project, Jane organized and ran a Clean Up Australia Day event at Redan, met with the City of Ballarat to promote the Yarrowee Project through an article in the MyBallarat magazine, and booked a planting day for St James' Primary School.

Jane has been undertaking collaboration with the Men's Shed on the Union Jack Creek Re-vitalization project, organizing a tree planting for the staff from the State Revenue Office with funding from the Corangamite Landcare Grant, liaising with landholders for the Save the Growling Grass Frog from Chytrid Fungus project with funding from a DELWP Threatened Species grant, organizing signage for the 'Back from the Brink' project, liaising with stakeholders for Communities for Nature project, and has submitted grant application EOI for Sustainability Victoria's Litter Innovation Fund. Jane also ran the recent Instagram photo competition, which resulted in 32 posts and 14 followers. At the present time, the LCG seeking for Jane to be funded an extra day per week, which will enable her to expand her role and be of greater assistance to Landcare groups.

Our Coordinator, Nick McKinley, has also been busy with a variety of tasks, including dealing with inquiries from the public and on-ground projects for Land health, River health and the Gorse Taskforce. He has also most recently become engaged with funding bodies and affected landholders to assist with community recovery from the recent Scotsburn fires. The LCG is seeking to obtain funding to renovate our equipment trailer, so it can be loaned out to Landcare Groups for planting days. This has required replacement worn-out wheel bearings, tyres, and electrical wiring, as well as removal of rust and being repainted. Adrian Newman has carried out this work - thank you Adrian! An audit of the of the trailer contents (tools) was done and a First Aid kit will be purchased.

Board members are currently in discussion about regular attendance at Landcare group meetings, since this was identified in the CLEA workshop as being a barrier to communication between the Board and Landcare groups.