

**Goulburn Murray  
Landcare  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report  
2017 - 2018**

---

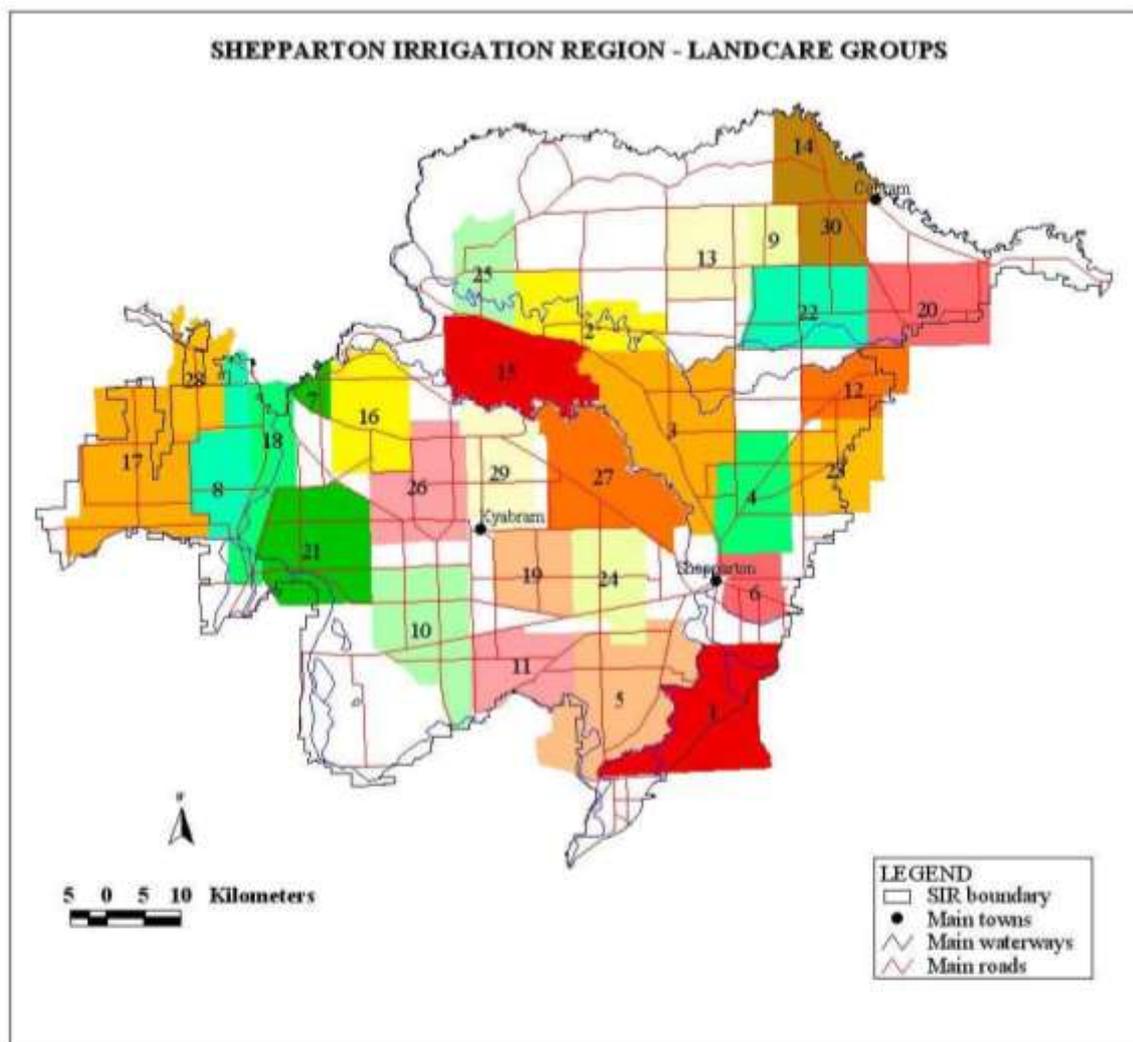


**Goulburn  
Murray  
*Landcare***

# Contents

<b>LANDCARE GROUPS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2017/18 OVERVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
CONTACTING THE GMLN OFFICE	4
GMLN AIMS	4
WHO'S WHO 2017/2018	4
GMLN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017/2018	5
<b>EXECUTIVE REPORTS</b>	<b>6</b>
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT	6
TREASURER'S REPORT	7
<b>REPORTS</b>	<b>8</b>
FUNDED PROJECTS FOR 2017/18	8
LIVING THE GOOD LIFE	9
ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S MEETING	11
FLOODPLAIN ECOLOGY COURSE 2017	11
EDUCATION - BEAD	12
SOILS PROJECT	14
FARM FORUM REPORTS & KIDSFEST	15
WEB PAGE & IT - WOODLANDS AND WETLANDS	16
BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENTS - THREATENED SPECIES PROJECT	16
SHEPPARTON MOORoopNA URBAN LANDCARE GROUP REPORT	17
GOODBYE - HELLO	19
<b>AGREEMENTS</b>	<b>21</b>
LIST OF EMPLOYEES	21
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING	21
PARTNERSHIPS	21
<b>AUDITED FINANCIALS</b>	<b>21</b>

# Landcare Groups



LANDCARE GROUPS		
1 Arcadia & District Landcare Group	11 Hurston Community Landcare Group	21 Muckatah Landcare Group
2 Broken Creek Improvement Group	12 Invergordon & District Environment LCG	22 Nanneella Timmering Landcare Group
3 Bunbartha Kaarimba Landcare Group	13 Katandra West Landcare Group	23 Naring Landcare Network
4 Congupna Tallygaroopna Landcare Group	14 Katunga Landcare Group	24 North West Mooroopna Land Management Group
5 Dhurringile & District Landcare Group	15 Koonoomoo Landcare Group	25 Picola Land Management Group
6 East Shepparton Landcare Group	16 Kotapna Landcare Group	26 Tongala Landcare Group
7 Echuca Village Landcare Group	17 Koyuga-Kayyapella Landcare Group	27 Undera Landcare group
8 Echuca West Salinity & Land Management Control Committee	18 Lockington & District Landcare Group	28 Wharparilla West Landcare Group
9 Floridan Park Landcare Group	19 Lower Campaspe River LCG & Echuca Urban LCG	29 Wyana Landcare Group
10 Girgarre Stanhope LCG	20 Merrigum Landcare Group	30 Yarroweyah Watertable Management Group

## 2017/2018 Overview

### Contacting the GMLN Office

**Office Location:** 82 Wyndham St Shepparton 3630  
**Telephone:** (03) 5821 3530  
**Email:** gmln@iinet.net.au  
Facebook  
**Website:** www.gmln.com.au

### The GMLN Aims

- ✓ To support Landcare groups in the Agricultural Floodplains
- ✓ To provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experiences between Landcare groups
- ✓ To publicise and promote the links between sustainable production and natural resource management
- ✓ To strengthen community business partnerships, by attracting support from and building relationships with, business and industry
- ✓ To strengthen partnerships with government agencies, local government, schools, tertiary institutions, urban communities and other groups as appropriate
- ✓ To influence regional planning and policy decision making
- ✓ To seek funding for Landcare projects
- ✓ To coordinate resources and information sharing
- ✓ To encourage research partnerships with Landcare

### Who's Who 2017/2018

Chairperson.....John Laing  
Vice Chair.....David Sutton  
Secretary.....Lanie Pearce  
Treasurer.....Craig Tuhon/David Doyle  
Immediate Past Chairperson.....David Doyle  
Executive committee members:  
Collier McCracken                      Glenn Thompson                      Trish Moss  
Graham Liersch                      Wendy D'Amore                      Brian Freemantle  
Veronica Groat

Landcare Facilitator.....Andrea Montgomery  
Landcare Facilitator.....Lanie Pearce  
Soil Project Officer.....Jo Doolan  
Biodiversity & IT.....Carolena Helderman

## The GMLN Achievements in 2017/2018

The Goulburn Murray Landcare Network has been successful in securing funding for 2 part-time Landcare facilitators until June next year. This funding enables us to continue to deliver projects and assist our member groups.

Our key outcomes for the year are listed below:

- ❖ 11 individuals were employed many of these on behalf of organisations such as The Gecko Clan; Upper Goulburn Landcare Network; Waterwatch and Stormwater with GV Water; and, individual Landcare groups and projects.
- ❖ Our office was staffed four days per week in 2017/18 by Andrea, Jo, Lanie and Carolena.
- ❖ We participated in school and community activities and the “Gone Fishing Day” during Water Week.
- ❖ We held numerous education days reaching over 3,300 students. It is becoming increasingly important that students experience environmental education in an outdoor situation.
- ❖ We launched our Outdoor Classroom area. We now have a dedicated place to meet at Reedy Swamp.
- ❖ We attended a number of community events including KidsFest, NAIDOC, Sustainable living festival Tatura, and Rumbalara family day and Rumbalara Bush Kinder Jamboree.
- ❖ We once again successfully organised and ran the Floodplain Ecology Course at Morning Glory Resort in Barmah. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the course and it continues to be well subscribed.
- ❖ We organised a number of Soil related field days. There is an ever-increasing number of participants in these informative days
- ❖ We held 10 very successful “Living the Good Life” events. It is always pleasing to see new faces and ideas emerge with this project
- ❖ Facilitator funding continues through for both Lanie and Andrea’s positions until June 2019. Hopefully we will be able to negotiate ongoing funding soon.
- ❖ We made submissions and participated in community consultations such as the Farm and Environment working group, RiverConnect, GBCMA Chairs meetings, VLI meetings and conference and various local council meetings.

Maintaining the same level of service remains a priority for us at GMLN. The office is running smoothly, and all projects have been completed and reported on in a timely manner. A lot of our projects are run out of office hours, and we thank the staff for their time and dedication to the operation of our Network.

## Executive Reports



### Chairperson's Report

Once again this has been a busy year, with significant changes taking place in Goulburn Murray Landcare Network during 2017/18.

The sad loss of the networks long serving treasurer, Craig Tuhan, has led to the rejigging of how our finances are managed. Some of the workload has been picked up by Andrea, some by Lanie and some by our accountants.

There have been some interesting days in the office as all this has been sorted out, thanks to both Andrea and Lanie for their persistence.

Following the retirement of David Hodgkins from Goulburn Valley Water the WaterWatch program is also currently being redesigned. This now means Goulburn Murray Landcare is no longer involved in the employment of WaterWatch coordinators in the catchment. Some of the monitoring is continuing through the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority so you may still see Dani and Kirsten doing their rounds.

David Hodgkins has been the driving force behind a Landcare/WaterWatch partnership in our catchment that began 20 years ago when he help set up the first WaterWatch monitoring program and we wish him well in retirement.

Dani Biescher has also had a long involvement with Goulburn Murray Landcare, having moved here from the upper catchment during the 1990's and been an on the executive committee for a number of years and an employee on and off for more than 10 years.

On the work front things have been busy. Field days, soils workshops, forums and education days continue to attract good numbers of people keen to learn about productive soils, pruning fruit trees, our local fauna and much more. Check out the individual reports for more details.

We are also set to lose Andrea as her and Brad are packing up the kids and embarking on a sea change, with a move to Paraparap at the end of the year. Andrea has been our network coordinator for many years and it is with much sadness we see her go. Network coordination is currently undergoing a review but will continue, with Lanie, Jo and Carolena doing extra whilst things are sorted out. A big thank you to our executive committee for their input and commitment for the year.

*John Laing*

Chairperson



## Treasurer's Report 2017-2018

It is with sadness that I write this report on behalf of Craig Tuhán, our past treasurer. Craig lost his battle with cancer in late December 2017. He managed all the finances for the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network over the past 15 years and worked tirelessly to ensure we were, and still are, in a fantastic financial position. Right up until his final days, Craig was still orchestrating wages and payments from his hospital bed. Thankyou is never enough.

With the assistance of the accountants next door – Wyndham Group Accounting, we have managed to continue meeting our financial obligations. I don't think any of us were totally aware of how much time and effort was involved keeping us operating so smoothly. We have moved some of the more onerous tasks to the Wyndham Group. This has included the Superannuation payments, BAS and Tax Office requirements.

Andrea, Lanie and John, have seen to the day to day accounts and the staff wages and payments. This has been very time-consuming as they have had to learn the computer program and understand Craig's filing system. All of this has been a very steep learning curve. Thanks everyone for your patience during a very exhausting process.

David Doyle stepped up as interim treasurer until the September AGM. The entire Executive committee have been made more aware of the financial situation, as we all relied so much on Craig's expertise in managing our books. Perhaps it is a good thing that we are now more "financial savvy".

Funding is still current for all positions in the office, so we maintain a good staffing level. We also have funding for numerous projects and the GBCMA also are using our services to deliver some of their projects. Andrea, Lanie, Jo and Carolena have all stepped up to ensure that the office has run efficiently and allow time to deal with all the changes. Thank-you ladies. Your efforts are appreciated.

The WaterWatch project ceased to be delivered through us due to financial changes at GV Water at the end of June 2018. We farewelled David Hodgkins, due to retirement; Danielle Beischer and Jill Breardon, due to the conclusion of the project. It is sad, after so many years, to finally say goodbye to WaterWatch.

Due to an alteration on the way we are recording future payments of Annual Leave and Long Service Leave, financial reports show operating loss of \$18004. This is an adjustment and does not mean we have an actual debt.

We are in a very good financial position moving forward into more uncertain times regarding funding sources with both State and Federal elections looming.

Once again, thank-you to the staff and executive during a very busy year.

*Lanie Pearce*  
Assistant Treasurer

## Reports

### Funded Projects for 2017/18

The GBCMA funded our education **Biodiversity Environment Aquatic Discovery (BEAD)** program again this year, which allowed us to continue our education program and do some extra events (see BEAD report). Our small, dedicated education team have been out and about right across the catchment sharing knowledge and awakening interest in schools. The project enables us to maintain contact with schools and community groups in a different way to our usual “field days”.

We secured funding from the GBCMA and the State Government Victorian Landcare Grants to continue our highly successful **“Living the Good Life”** project which is aimed at getting small landholders interested in landcare activities and providing them with information to better manage their land. We have been able to deliver information on topics that usually are not funded by larger projects. It is always heartening to see people attending through a mutual interest in something. We hope to continue this project in the future with a similar number of varied themes.

We were provided some funding from the GBCMA to help deliver the **“Woodlands and Wetlands”** project. This work is being done by Carolena who is able to assist landholders in accessing incentives to fence and revegetate their properties. As usual, it is always wonderful to see landholders appreciate the biodiversity aspects of their properties.

Carolena has developed a new **website** for us and also keeping our facebook posts up to date. Check us out on [www.gmln.com.au](http://www.gmln.com.au) and like us on Facebook. A great way to keep up with us.

The **Floodplain Ecology Course** ran again this year for the 9<sup>th</sup> time. GMLN successfully obtained funding to deliver the course. It continues to be well supported. We have a waiting list for the next course. Thanks to GBCMA for assisting and enabling us to keep offering this course.

We were funded by the GBCMA through the **Beyond SoilCare** project to continue soil education in the Landcare Network area. Jo has continued delivering this project, and she has been successful in securing some extra funding to continue her 3 day a week position. It is through this project that the Annual Farm Forum is possible. The “soils project” will continue to deliver more projects in the next 12 months.

Details of our projects are included later in this report. Thankyou to our Landcare volunteers, who have supported GMLN projects. We would be unable to operate in such an efficient manner without you. Thankyou for your continued support.

## Living the Good Life 2017 - 2018



*This year we had an unusual mix of topics, all were well received and attended. It has been very rewarding to see such wonderful support for the events.*

*We were committed to 10 sessions and successfully reached our target.*

### Fruitfly workshops x3

We held 3 sessions about the control of Q-fly: Koyuga; Numurkah; Shepparton

Thanks to Ross Abberfield for facilitating this project for us.

It was a worthwhile exercise to follow the pruning workshops. In general, people are concerned about the amount of fruit

fly we are seeing in the urban areas. As part of the project, the councils are offering free fruit tree removal for urban gardens as a control method. If anyone requires further information, contact us.

### Pruning Workshop

Under the capable guidance of John Pettigrew, we watched and learnt.

We had a great time at the Liersch's property learning the basics of keeping our trees under control. It was, at times difficult to keep the crowd under control—lots of questions and quips, but always fun!

The session was followed by a wonderful lunch at the Falcon Hotel. If John is willing, we will repeat the session again next year.

### 1st Annual Bush Picnic

Thank-you to the Koyuga- Kanyapella crew who welcomed us to their patch for our 1st Bush Picnic. It was a fun night and we were thoroughly entertained by Ken Jones—our fabulous Bush Poet. The food was exceptional—thanks Truffles. It was lovely to hear the history of the arboretum at the Koyuga Reserve—thanks for your knowledge and fantastic company for the evening. We are looking forward to another picnic next November.



### Kingfisher Cruise

It was an extremely hot day for cruising and the creatures were not as keen to be out and about for spotting from the boat, but it was a very relaxing way to spend the morning. Thank-you to all who braved the heat to make an enjoyable day. We had an enjoyable lunch at the Dharnya Centre to complete our Christmas meeting.

### Spotlight Walk & AGM

Thanks to Wendy D'Amore our local spotlighting expert for giving her time for this event. Prior to our AGM, we went on a walk with Wendy along the river behind AquaMoves. We were extremely lucky to see both a sugar Glider and a Squirrel Glider along with a possum and an owl. This is amazing considering the amount of noise we were all making!

# Living the Good Life 2017 – 2018 continued

## Preserving

It's amazing that there is more to learn about preserving our produce. We thought we knew everything.

Thanks to Dot, we have renewed enthusiasm and are back in our kitchens bottling away.

We are very grateful for the people in our community who are happy to share their knowledge with us all.

Thanks also to Joy Liersch for arranging the day for us and Andrea, as always, for her support and enthusiasm.

## Wendy and Michael's Wild Adventure

Thanks to Wendy and Michael D'Amore for taking us on a virtual journey with them to Antarctica. Amazing scenery and they had such a wonderful adventure.

By the end of the night, I'm sure they could have taken us all on a private tour with them as tour guides. It was fantastic to hear how the tour operators are looking after the area by limiting the number of people and amount time spent on the islands.

*Wonderful memories and WOW! What an experience!*

## Trees For Mum

It was a wonderful morning to be down at Vic Park Lake—Shepparton to hand out trees to the participants to plant in honour of their Mum.

It is a pleasure to be able to remember our mums in this way and see the happiness a simple tree or shrub can bring.

Thanks to Andrea, Lanie and Jo who missed breakie in bed to be there.

This is the 5th year we have participated in the Mother's Day Fun Run.

Thank-you for inviting us.



*This project has been funded for a further 12 months, so we are looking for future ideas as well as repeating a few favourites. Let us know if you think of an interesting and informative session we can arrange, or an exciting venue we may all want to visit.*

*A big thankyou to all the presenters, hosts and attendees who continue to make all these events successful. Also, a big thanks to the staff who continue to do a fantastic job including a lot of weekend and evening hours to make sure things run smoothly.*



## Annual President's meeting



Once again we gathered all available presidents together for our annual meeting.

It is important for us to meet regularly as a group to discuss issues that are impacting on our area. We encourage you to highlight the benefits of sharing and learning. If your group is not represented at the President's meeting, please try to get a representative along. It's not a great commitment – only once a year.

We cover a wide range of groups with quite varied agendas. The ground is forever changing, and funding opportunities are much more difficult to source. Groups are finding it increasingly difficult to find committed volunteers to take on positions of responsibility. This is now very common across all volunteer groups and we are yet to find a simple solution.

The network is a supporting body for individuals as well as groups. At present we have 32 groups in our network. We also have a membership of the network. Firstly, we refer people to the nearest operational Landcare group and if that is not desirable, individuals can then become Network members.

They are then covered under our insurance policy and can attend activities at a reduced cost (if this applies).

This year for our annual gathering we asked Kerri Robson, from Gecko Clan Landcare Network to enlighten us about the newest biosecurity rules.

It's a whole new world out there with checks and balances to be added to our never-ending list of paperwork to fill out. There are new signs to erect and lots of things we hadn't considered, such as: What do contractors bring onto your property? How do we control traffic – both human and vehicular—on field days?

You'll be seeing these signs on properties around the district as we comply with the new regulations.

*A huge thank-you to Kerri for her presentation about biosecurity.*



## FLOODPLAIN ECOLOGY 2017

It was another fantastic year for FEC. Beautiful weather and company.

We had all places filled and now have a waiting list for next year. Lots of fun, learning and enthusiasm from presenters and participants.

Our presenters were generous with their time and knowledge.

Our participants were wonderfully adaptable to all our time changes.

The accommodation and food were again outstanding and appreciated.

We all went home a lot wiser and a little bit fatter!!

Thanks Morning Glory River Resort and Murph's Roving Roast and everyone who participated.

*Lanie Pearce*  
Project Coordinator



## Biodiversity Environment Aquatic Discovery Project

*We have had another extremely busy year with our BEAD project. Over 35 school visits and events and more than 3,300 students attended our session. Once again we were supported by other educators across the catchment, along with our passionate volunteers and champions. There were some specific events we attended which are usually held annually as well as a lot of 1<sup>st</sup> time ones. We are finding that we are, at times, stretched to the limit for volunteers. Everyone enjoys the days, which are full of adventure and learning. We are always on the look-out for new themes and topics to keep Landcare Education relevant. If you have wanted to come along and see what we are about, or think you might be able to help, just contact us and we will try to arrange something.*

*Thanks to all our support teams from: Parks Vic; COGS; Moira Shire; GVWater; GBCMA; Landcare groups and individuals. Without your enthusiasm and assistance, we wouldn't be able to fulfil all our commitments.*



**Our Languages Matter**  
2-9 JULY 2017

## NAIDOC 2017

We were out and about during **NAIDOC** week again this year. We were invited to take part in the celebrations at Barmah. A bit of a drab, watery day, but the enthusiasm was unsurpassable! It is always one of the first dates in the calendar for the year and we look forward to it. The Dharnya Centre has a special feel about it – and the tucker is pretty good too.

It is always an honour and pleasure to be included in these events.

## BUSH KINDER JAMBOREE



The **BUSH KINDER JAMBOREE** at Rumbalara was the highlight of the Bush Kinder Year.

Heaps of Kinder kids and their teachers/parents all experiencing the bush in a variety of ways—bush tucker, bush play, bush critters and a wonderful campfire!

Great Job Cheryl Bourke in pulling it all together. Thanks for our Jamboree Beanies.

Very welcome on the slightly chilly day.

Thankyou GV Water for lending us the champion badge maker. It was a draw card at all our events. Adults as well as kids enjoyed the activity. Another FANTASTIC event to be invited to take part—and of course, a whole heap of fun for us as well.

## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

It was a great morning down at Reedy Swamp for the launch of our 1st Outdoor Classroom.

Florina Preschool and Dookie Primary School had a wonderful morning rotating between activities: Turtle muster, Planting and Swamp Walk.

Great to see so many people out and about.

Thanks to COGS; Kaiela Gallery; Parks Vic; GBCMA; YYNAC for all your support with this project.

We now have a dedicated area to meet for all our education days.



- continued.....

## ***Biodiversity Environment Aquatic Discovery Project***

### **Gone Fishing Day**



The GFD committee, under control of the amazing, Jo Woods, organized another fantastic family Gone Fishing Day.

As usual we exhibited our critters—along with some new ones which Mel Weston (RiverConnect) had collected from Melbourne for us—and some games and activities for the people who were not catching anything or needed a break from hauling in the “big ones”.

There were over 200 registrations, but the crowd was larger than that—not everyone who fished registered.

The community support for this event is fantastic. It’s great to see so many families enjoying the Vic Park Lake area. Thanks for asking us to be part of the day.

### **Platypus Conservancy -Water Week**

We partnered with RiverConnect to bring the Platypus Conservancy to the region for Water Week. It was very hectic with 6 events over 3 days.

- **Sunday afternoon:** Kyabram Fauna Park
- **Monday:** Numurkah - St Josephs’ and Numurkah Primary Schools
- **Monday evening:** Shepp senior Citizens
- **Tuesday:** Shepparton, Congupna, Dhurringile, Tallygaroopna & Bouchier Street Primary Schools
- **Tuesday evening:** technical session—Shepparton



Thanks to all who supported these events and congratulations to the schools involved. Your behaviour was excellent! We hope you will come to other events we hold.

### **Kanyapella Bus Tour:**

For those lucky enough to be able to make it, we had a wonderful, informative day. Neville Rosengren—noted geomorphologist, explained the history and development of the area. It’s amazing how the change in the landscape is so subtle yet it alters the way our rivers now flow.

We will all be having a closer look around us as we traverse the countryside.

### **Educators’ Gathering**

In December, we had our annual educators’ lunch. Our way of thanking everyone who presents and/or assists at our regular environmental days and events.

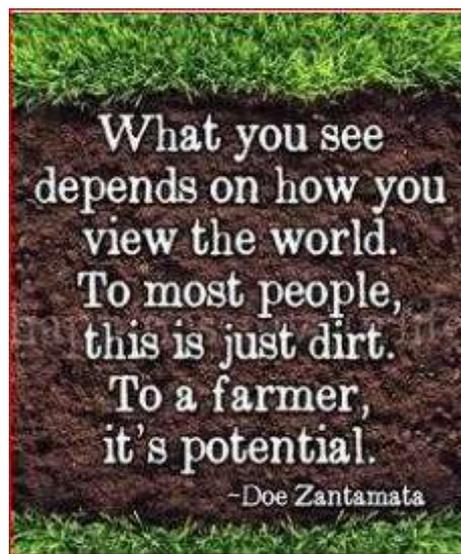
Thanks to: Greta, Hilda, Kristy, Alice, Alison, Mel, Joy, John, Jo, Andrea and Carolena. And, to the organisations who allow them to support us: Parks Vic; COGS; GVWater; GBCMA and all the schools and community people who participate.

*Lanie Pearce*  
Project Coordinator

## Soils report 2017-2018

We've had another productive and inspiring year in Soils ☺ Farmers and land managers said they are grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the soil systems on their farms and are feeling confident about making management decisions that benefit the ecosystem and ultimately their businesses.

Around 200 people attended events, workshops & forums this past year. More funding has been secured so the learning will continue into 2019 ☺ Thank you to the farmers for their enthusiasm and input into making this a successful project. Special mention to Fraser Pogue at Ardmona who is a young and innovative farmer, his generosity with his time and sharing his learnings and experiences with others is invaluable to this district's agricultural future.



Soil events, workshops held 2017-2018:

- Soil Fungi workshop, Mooroopna, Aug 2017
- Farm Forum Follow up dinner, Aug 2017
- Multi Species Cover Cropping course 3<sup>rd</sup> session, Tatura, Aug 2017
- 'Getting value from your input dollars', Undera Sept 2017
- Multi Species cover crop demonstration trial, Ardmona Jun '17-ongoing
- Soil health videos, online
- Beyond SoilCare resampling, Sept-Oct '17
- Federal Ag Minister visit @ Pine Lodge, showcasing Landcare's involvement in farmers accessing information on regenerative ag techniques via courses, workshops & forums, Nov '17
- Holistic Management support group establishment, Mar 2018
- Soils Showcase, GBCMA @ Dookie, presented on the Multi Species Cover Crop demonstration, May 2018
- Holistic Management – Land to Market presentation, May 2018
- Grant research & applications, late '17 –early 2018. (Small Farms Grant unsuccessful, Vic Landcare Grant ☺ successful)
- School visits, Landcare meetings, etc

*I'm looking forward to continuing the Soils project. Thank you for your support.*

*Jo Doolan*

Project Coordinator

## **Forum Dinner – Winter Evenings – July 2017**

The finale of our very successful “Winter Evenings” farm forums was a two-course dinner at The Connection – KidsTown. It was a lovely way to complete our series of 4 evenings.

Our guest speakers were Dale Grey (Ag Vic) – Seasonal weather outlook, and Dr Rob Faggian (Deakin Uni) and Marisa O’Halloran – (GB Greenhouse Alliance) climate impacts on agriculture in our region. All were very informative presenters and gave an insight regarding future predictions and possibilities for our region.

Our presenters throughout the series have all been very generous with their time, flexibility and patience, as we shuffled times and topics to best suit everyone. We are very pleased with the venue at KidsTown (Munch’n’Crunch Room) as it allows us to transition from our meal to the sessions very easily.

Thank you to everyone who attended the forums – over 175 people attended the evenings. The feedback has been, in general, very positive. At this stage, we will be running a similar type forum next year.

## **Winter Evenings – Farm Forum - June 2018**

Our series of forums this year spread over 2 financial years. So, we will report on the first one in this Annual Report and complete the series report next year. (If you can’t wait that long – check out our web page for past newsletters).

Biosecurity is such a hot topic. We ran a similar event at our president’s meeting in May.

Dr Patrick Kluver presented an informative session covering people & livestock movement, vehicles & equipment, feed & water, pests & weeds. Everyone who attended, then had the opportunity to be part of a bulk order of signs for farm gates. We are overwhelmed by the issues raised in the session; some we had not even thought about.

This first Winter Evening set the scene for an interesting series that followed in July 2018.

## **KidsFest 2017**

John and Lanie attended KidsFest again. We have been attending this event since its inception in 2006. It’s a wonderful concept to celebrate our children. We have a diverse range of people checking out our displays and activities. We are one of the few “free” exhibitors remaining

Thanks to Parks Victoria for sharing their space with us and RiverConnect for their input as well. It is a partnership that we value and look forward to attending every year.

## WEB PAGE AND IT

The GMLN.com website was launched in 2017 and includes regular updates to the Events & Projects pages. A map of the Landcare Network was also created to feature the active Landcare groups.

A GMLN You Tube Channel feeds into the website which allows us to share presentations from workshops and provide information.

We've also introduced Apps such as ClickSend, where we can inform people via text of upcoming workshop or meeting reminders. We have also begun using Eventbrite to list Free and Paid Events which are linked from the Events pages on our website and Facebook.

## WOODLANDS AND WETLANDS PROJECT

A total of 56 sites (303ha) were identified and assessed as potential sites for NLP2. Most of the work was targeted to an ecological output which investigated and researched the sites with Grey Box Woodlands.

A further 365ha was identified as Grey Box areas which have been marked to explore further as part of NLP2. This was not completed within this project but allows an opportunity to conduct further assessment in NLP2.

## BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENTS

Part of my role has been in partnership with (GBCMA) to do biodiversity assessments as part of OCOC (Our Catchments, our Communities) and SIP (Sustainable Irrigation Program).

This work resulted in the completion of seven management agreements.

## THREATENED SPECIES

A pair of curious Bush Stone-Curlews were documented as part of a project to 'Protect icon threatened species of the Goulburn Murray Landcare area'. The Community Volunteer Action Grant allowed us to purchase cameras to monitor their roost. Check out the Project on our website!

*Carolena Helderman*

Project Coordinator

## SHEPPARTON MOOROOPNA URBAN LANDCARE GROUP

President: Gerry Goonan, Minutes Secretary: Helen Jeffs, General Secretary: Wendy D'Amore

### 2017/2018 Achievements and Activities.

This year we have delivered walks, talks, planting, weeding, support of a number of environmental programs and enjoyed working with lovely people and groups as mentioned below. As a team we can make a difference. We thank the Goulburn Murray Landcare for its ongoing support.

### RiverConnect/Greater Shepparton City Council

- Provided support to the RiverConnect **School Program** including assistance in checking nest boxes, teabag retrieval project at Reedy and Gemmill Swamps and planting days with schools.
- Supported **Planting days** for One tree per child and National Tree Day in Shepparton and Mooroopna, and Diana Padron's project with the Fairley Leadership Program.
- Clean up Australia Day and Schools Clean up day.
- Gerry has attended the Illegal Dumping meetings and Land Managers meetings.

### Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton (FoABGS)

Cheryl Clark had provided excellent support over the last two years to FoABGS and our group as part of her role as project officer for 'Enhancing the Shepparton urban landscape through community involvement' funded through the Myer Foundation.

- Members participated in the '**Weed Warriors**' group removing weeds from the bushland area of the gardens, volunteering weekly with FoABGS, who became finalists in the Keep Victoria Beautiful Sustainable Cities Award, in the category of Protection of the Environment.
- Attended Myer Foundation funded events to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, Melton Botanic Gardens and 'Lets gaze at the moon' – astronomy night.
- 'Reach for the stars' – our group was acknowledged for community contribution to ABGS.
- Held a **working bee** to mulch recently planted areas in the Children's garden as part of the 'Breathing life into the bushland' project.
- Contributed materials to the Young Explorers Program, assistance for the bird brochure and grant applications.

### Spotlight walks

Wendy D'Amore provides spotlight walks for RiverConnect as part of their Activities in the Park Program and is appreciatively assisted by SMULG members Michael D'Amore and Gerry Goonan. Additional spotlight walks were held for the 2017 GMLN AGM and for University of Melbourne students at the ABGS.

### Boulevard Bushland Reserve

- Two walks were hosted - Community Walk in September as part of Biodiversity Spring in partnership with RiverConnect and a guided walk with U3A.
- Held a working bee to remove Ash and palm trees, weed and rubbish removal.

## Squirrel Glider project

- Following on from the previous year we ran a sensor camera training workshop with Russell Jones.
- Purchased a GPSs to be used in conjunction with wildlife cameras and a spotlight torch.
- Printed the Gliders of Greater Shepparton brochure.
- Carried out two sessions of nest box checking in the ABGS with great results.
- Met with Lily D'Ámbrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change at the Botanic Gardens regarding the project, supported by GMLN, FoABGS and RiverConnect.
- Developed a Presentation Poster on the Squirrel Glider Nest box project with Cheryl's expertise and Helen presented this at the 'Hooray for Hume' Biodiversity Conference held in Benalla.

## Additional

- Hosted a talk 'People, Plants and Animals' by Melissa Stagg and Emmaline Bowman at MEAC Mooroopna with support from FoABGS and RiverConnect. This was well attended by 40people.
- Shepparton Show – installed and manned the Landcare stand with GMLN, FoABGS and Australian Plant Society.

## Training

Members attended training in First Aid, group governance and social media. Some members also completed a Chemical Users Course at GoTafe with sponsorship from the Myer Foundation.



*Camera in nestbox*

## Goodbye

*It has been a difficult and sad year for GMLN.  
We said goodbye to quite a few good friends. We will miss them all.*

### Craig Tuhan

It is with much sadness that we said farewell to Craig Tuhan. Craig finally lost his battle with cancer in late December 2017.

He was the current treasurer of Goulburn Murray Landcare and has been involved in Landcare at a local level with Girgarre/Stanhope Landcare group and regionally with Goulburn Murray Landcare for more than 20 years.

For those of you that knew Craig, pause a moment and remember him as the hard-working dedicated man he was.

He was a friend to us all at GMLN and we will miss his amazing spreadsheets and quirky sense of humour. Our sincere sympathy to Carol and Craig's extended family

*"Goodbye our friend. We'll think of you and smile."* Rest easy Craig.

### Steve Farrell

We send our condolences to the folk out at Koyuga/Kanyapella Landcare on the sudden, sad loss of their president, Steve Farrell.

Steve was a long-time member of Landcare and represented his community on a huge number of committees. He will be sadly missed by all for his genuine concern for the area and his enthusiastic input over the years.

Our sincere sympathy to his family and community.

*"We consider ourselves lucky to have shared time and made memories with Steve."*

*Gone but not forgotten.*

### David Hodgkins

David Hodgkins has retired from GV Water after managing WaterWatch since 1993 and later the Stormwater project. His knowledge and dedication to the projects and people involved will be sadly missed. David was generous with his time and knowledge when dealing with everyone.

It has been a great partnership over a long time and we will continue this with the new team when it is all settled.

Currently Jacinta Burke is managing the projects, so we have someone who has also has a long involvement with WaterWatch.

Hodgy is moving to "the big smoke", where we know he will find and use the nearest bike path.

Happy Retirement!

### [Mel Weston](#)

Mel is off on an amazing travel adventure. We are sorry to see Mel leave, but wish her safe travels and lots of fascinating experiences along the way.

We thank Mel for her passion and commitment to the environment and her friendship during her time at RiverConnect. They will be big boots to fill and her replacement will have to be super passionate and absolutely amazing!!!

We look forward to hearing from Mel wherever she finds herself. We are richer for knowing her.

Happy journey Mel. Make some wonderful memories!

### [Danielle Beischer](#)

Another long-time employee of GMLN has left us due to an alteration of arrangements with GV Water. Danielle has been with us since 2006 in a few different roles, the most recent and enduring one being the Goulburn Broken WaterWatch coordinator. As part of her position she has been responsible for managing the volunteers and most of the lab work, as well as data entry.

She will be missed on her “rounds” along our local waterways

Danielle was also on the GMLN executive for several years, and we thank her for her input and service to the committee.

We wish her all the best for her future—where ever she may find herself.

THANKS, and FAREWELL!

## [WELCOME](#)

*There are a few new faces around the traps. While we will miss their predecessors, it is always good to look at things through new eyes. If you don't have their contact details, just let us know and we will forward them to you.*

*Make sure you get to know them and welcome them to our community.*

### [Meg Pethybridge](#)

Replaces Mel Weston - RiverConnect

### [Andrew Hamilton](#)

Replaces Alice Russell - ResourceSmart

### [Jane White](#)

Replaces Gary Deayton - Environment Sustainability Officer - Moira Shire.

## List of Employees - 2017-2018

Andrea Montgomery	Goulburn Murray Landcare Network
Raelene (Lanie) Pearce	Goulburn Murray Landcare Network & Stormwater Project
Jo Doolan	Goulburn Murray Landcare Network
Carolena Helderman	Goulburn Murray Landcare Network
Danielle Beischer	WaterWatch
Kerri Kallady-Robson	Gecko Clan
Chris Cobern	Upper Goulburn Fire Recovery
Cathy Olive	Upper Goulburn Landcare Network
Judith Watts	Goulburn Murray Landcare Network

## Contract Employees - 2017-2018

Jill Breardon	WaterWatch
Wendy D'Amore	RiverConnect - Spotlight Project

## Memorandum of Understanding - 2017-2018

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network  
 Gecko Clan  
 Goulburn Valley Water

## Partnerships - 2017-2018

