

# **Goulburn Murray Landcare Annual Report August 2017**

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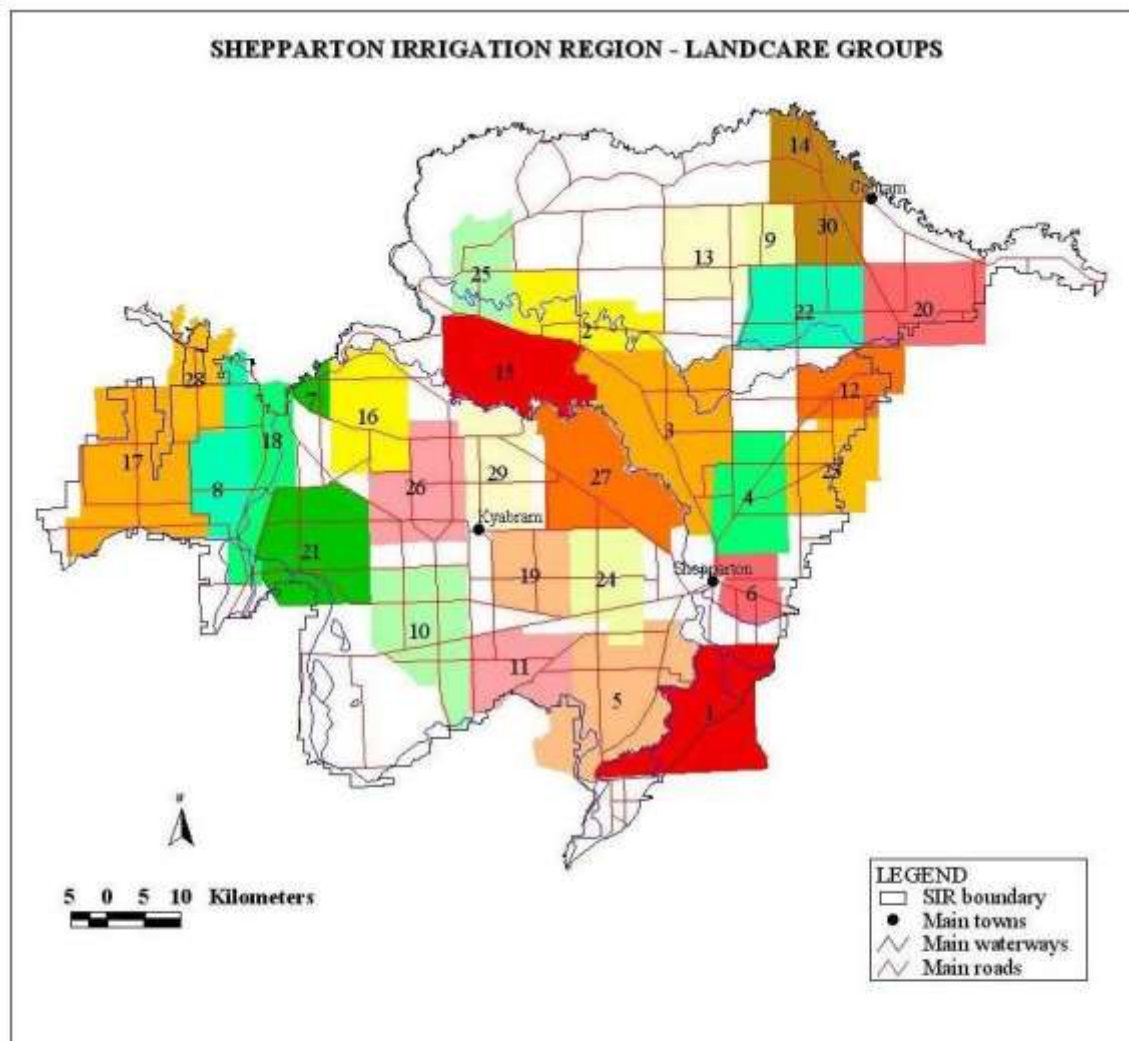
**Goulburn  
Murray  
*Landcare***

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## Landcare Groups



### LANDCARE GROUPS

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Arcadia & District Landcare Group                        | 11 Harston 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 Kotupna Landcare Group                      | 26 Tongala Landcare Group                     |
| 7 Echuca Village Landcare Group                            | 17 Koyuga-Kanyapella 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 Wyuna Landcare Group                       |
| 10 Gidgee Stanhope LCG                                     | 20 Merrigum Landcare Group                     | 30 Yarraweyah Watertable Management Group     |

## 2016 Overview

### Contacting the GMLN Office

**Office Location:** 82 Wyndham St Shepparton 3630  
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**Website:** <http://goulburnbroken.landcarevic.net.au/gmln>

## 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 2016/2017

Chairperson.....	John Laing
Vice Chair.....	David Sutton
Secretary.....	Lanie Pearce
Treasurer.....	Craig Tuhon
Immediate Past Chairperson.....	David Doyle
Executive committee members:	
Collier McCracken	Glenn Thompson
Graham Liersch	Wendy D'Amore
	Trish Moss
	Brian Freemantle
Landcare Facilitator.....	Andrea Montgomery
Landcare Education.....	Lanie Pearce
Soil Project Officer.....	Jo Doolan

## The GMLN Achievements in 2016/2017

The Goulburn Murray Landcare Network has been successful in securing funding for a part-time Landcare facilitator for the next four years. This funding will enable us to continue to deliver projects and assist our member groups.

**Our key outcomes for the year are listed below:**

- ❖ 13 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 also for individual Landcare groups and projects.
- ❖ Our office was staffed three days per week in 2016 by Andrea and Jo and Lanie. Andrea has been in the office an extra day a week in 2017. Carolena has been working 2 days a week since May 2017.
- ❖ We participated in Water Week activities.
- ❖ We held displays at the Elmore Field Day in October in collaboration with the Shire of Campaspe.
- ❖ We held numerous education days reaching over 3,200 students. The students appreciate being outside the school environment to learn about our local flora and fauna.
- ❖ We attended a number of community events including the Benalla Festival, KidsFest, NAIDOC, Sustainable living festival Tatura, and Rumbalara family day.
- ❖ We once again successfully organised and ran the Floodplain Ecology Course at Morning Glory Resort in Barmah. The course was attended by 19 people who all gave positive feedback about the course.
- ❖ We organised a number of Soil related field days.
- ❖ We held a number of information sessions as part of the Living the Good Life projects including a
- ❖ We made submissions and participated in community consultations such as the Farm and Environment working group, RiverConnect, GBCMA Chairs meetings, VLC meetings and conference and various local council meetings.

It has again been a busy year for the Network with continuing changes to funding and staff as well as the regular events and the contacts we have made.

## Partners





## Executive Reports

### Chairperson's Report



It seems to be a familiar pattern to the start of this report, but we have, yet again, had a very busy twelve months.

The 'Living the Good Life' project continues to be popular, with an interesting array of subject matter to keep attendees turning up. This program is part of our overall education and awareness raising activities, which are designed to give people a better understanding, awareness and appreciation of life on the floodplain.

The school program is central to this and continues to attract a lot of interest; check out Lanie's report to see the array of places and schools we have been to this year.

Our general get out and about activities program has also seen us in a variety of places, including the Mokoan Music festival, Tatura sustainable Living Festival and soaring with the eagles at Kyabram Fauna Park.

The soils program that Jo Doolan is coordinating continues to attract a lot of interest, but this should be no surprise given the value of healthy soils in productive farming systems.

Soils were one of the things that were highlighted at the national Landcare conference in Melbourne last year, with many of the keynote speakers calling for more to be done to protect and improve soil health across the country. With ongoing funding we look set to continue this valuable support service to our regions producers.

The four farm forums held during winter had good attendances; some of the nights were cold and bleak, but the interesting subject matter got people out regardless. This format gives people the ability to pick and choose the things that they want to learn about in a relaxed friendly way and interaction with speakers is easier than at one big forum.

We secured funding during the year to get the website up and running and improve internet interaction. The plan is to be able to showcase and highlight some of the things we are involved in and give people the ability to catch up on some of the learnings that come out of the farm forums and other education and awareness raising activities. Carolena Helderma is getting things up to speed in this regard. In partnership with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) Carolena is also getting out and about doing biodiversity assessments as part of the incentives program to improve biodiversity outcomes in the region.

Lots of other things have happened during the past twelve months; check out the rest of the reports.

Our partnerships continue to be strong and productive and I need to thank the GBCMA, ParksVic and our local governments, Moira, Campaspe and the City of Greater Shepparton, for their ongoing support and involvement in our activities. Our offices in Shepparton also continue to be supported by Piastrini and Guppy and this support is much appreciated.

Andrea Montgomery has once again done a great job keeping us on track and is ably supported by Lanie Pearce, Jo Doolan and Carolena Helderma. Thank you guys.

Our executive committee has once again had an eclectic array of stuff to get through and prioritise, thanks to all involved. Thank you also to all the Landcarers out there that continue to care and look after our regions soils, water and biodiversity.

**John Laing**



## Treasurer's Report

It was a difficult year for me with my health problems and trying to attend our regular executive committee meetings and attend to my treasurer duties. With the help of Lanie, Andrea and John we managed to keep our financial obligations up to date.

We continue to maintain good funding levels, particularly from the state government, with their Landcare coordinator funding for three days a week continuing with an additional three days secured with the help of Tony Kubeil of GBCMA and the Wyuna Landcare group.

Andrea and Lanie plan our projects together and then work tirelessly to bring them to the community. The 'living the good life' project has a variety of topics so to engage the broader

community in sustainable agriculture but at a level that may be overlooked by commercial field days and presentations. Soils' funding (Jo) has continued with interesting field days and information sessions that are well supported. Carolena has been employed to help with our website and to complete the focus landscape project for the GBCMA.

A few staff have taken long service leave with two more approaching eligibility. To GMLN Long service means stability, maintaining knowledge and experience, personalities and saving resources through not recruiting and training. Any new projects that we are successful in receiving funding for we can quickly plan and implement which helps meet our funding commitments and maintains the momentum of the project from an idea through to its success.

David Hodgkins at GV Water continues their partnership with us and we provide support for their education days with staff, resources and volunteers. Stormwater funding that was supported from a few local shires and GV Water is winding up and our Waterwatch project with its quality data has only a few staff (Dani and Jill) left maintaining the volunteers and the data collection.

We will continue our partnerships in the changing funding landscape with information presented through differing platforms and from providers that give the community new ideas. I hope everyone can keep up with it all.

**Craig Tuhan**  
Network Treasurer

## Reports

### Funded Projects for 2016/17

The GBCMA funded our education Biodiversity Environment Aquatic Discovery (BEAD) program again this year, which allowed us to continue to expand the education program and do some extra events (see BEAD report). A Community Education Grant was also received for Education projects across the catchment. With support from Museum Victoria and funding provided by VESKI we can continue to facilitate the bug blitz program with a number of local high schools.

We were once again successful in securing 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. This has once again been well supported by the community and is a great project which we hope will continue on next year.

We were provided funding from the GBCMA to help deliver the Kotupna-Wyuna Landscapes project, which included raising awareness in the community about the value of our trees and bushland. This work is being continued by our new biodiversity officer Carolena who started with us in May, who is able to assist landholders in accessing incentives to fence and revegetate their properties.

Carolena is also helping develop a new website for us and also keeping our facebook posts up to date.

After providing support for the organisation of the Floodplain Ecology Courses in 2008 and 2011, and running it annually since 2012, the GMLN has been successful in obtaining funding to deliver the course for the next 2 years.

We were funded again by the GBCMA through the Beyond SoilCare project to continue soil education in the Landcare Network area. This funding also made our Annual Farm Forum possible again this year. Jo has continued delivering this project, and she has been successful in securing some extra funding to continue her 3 day a week position and deliver some other great other soils related projects in the next 12 months.

There are more detailed reports for most of the individual projects below. Thank-you to all the Landcare volunteers who have supported GMLN projects. Without you these would not happen.

# Living the Good Life

## **BLACKSMITHING**

### **PORT TOUR & AGM 2016 —Echuca**

An unusual choice for the AGM, but very interesting for all who attended. It was a request that we do the Blacksmithing and I am convinced there are a few "smithing" projects to come from the evening.

The Port Tour was an added bonus with each group doing a different half of the tour.

Dinner was a very relaxed affair, with minimal formalities and lots of chatter.

Well done team! Impressive night

YOUR TEXT

## **SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL**

### **Tatura**

John flew the Landcare flag for us this year.

This event gets bigger every year with more and more interest from the wider community.

John's bugs, and their homes always attract a very interested crowd and is a fantastic way to promote ourselves. The idea of a trail to assist in sustainable living is inspired.

How to mend a tyre; bee keeping; keeping chooks; smarter home renovations and edible gardens along with the Men's Shed "repair café", all contributed to make this a very practical as well as an interesting event.

THE PRACTICAL LIVING TRAIL

... TATURA



## **Native Garden Design - King Billy Retreat**

### **Louise Costa**

A wonderful relaxing way to spend a pleasant Sunday morning.

We had a fantastic day at Lou Costa's place. Thank-you Lou for your generosity and hospitality. Lou was very patient as we invaded her garden and home. We have all come away inspired to do a lot more with our own gardens - or at least get more involved in our own garden sculptures



## **GET ON PAR WITH YOUR GRASS ID** *Presented by Paul Foreman*

Thank you Murchison Golf Club for allowing us to hold our Grass Identification day there in November. A great turn out of people to listen and learn from Paul Foreman.

We are by no means experts—as yet, but certainly a good beginning for us to start our ID journey.

Lots of plants, learning and tucker to keep every-one happy. We hope to hold another similar day in the New Year at a different location.

## **Dookie Seed Bank**

**Liz Evans and Andrew Sands**

### **Christmas Gathering**

About 30 people came to our general meeting at Dookie to celebrate the end of the Landcare year. It was a very informative centre

Thanks to Liz and Andrew for allowing us to see what happens at the seed bank and the logistics of cleaning every type of seed that is collected for you.

From the interest at the session, we are planning on a full day session on seed cleaning later in the year. Let us know when if you, or anyone you know are might be interested so we can begin planning.



## **Morning tea by the Lake**

A small but social group met at Victoria Park Lake to celebrate together and raise awareness about wetlands.

It was, perhaps not a great time of day and next year we will have to consider an evening or early morning gathering. Thanks to all who assisted: Allison—River Connect; Kristy & Alice—GV Water;

Danielle—Water Watch; and, of course our small, dedicated army of Landcarers.

Lovely to catch up for a chat and a scone or two

## **Photography Workshop**

We were fully booked for this workshop.

It was a beautiful day and everyone went home with a fountain of knowledge.

Obviously it is a popular pastime and we will have to repeat it for those who missed out.

Send us your photos to include on our new webpage. We plan to have a rolling slideshow running, so it would be nice to have something local.

## **Trees for Mum**

Another successful Trees for Mum event.

We partnered with the annual Mother's day run at Vic Park Lake again. A great way to promote Landcare as well as getting plants in the ground.

We gave away around 300 trees to plant in honour of all mums.

It was a lovely sunny day and a fine way to spend mothers' day morning.

Thanks to Trish, Andrea, Jo and Lanie for giving up breakie in bed to be there



Goulburn  
Murray  
**Landcare**



## Kotupna-Wyuna Landscapes project

### Reconnecting with Nature

#### **Threatened Bird Conservation:**

#### **Farmers are Pitching In**

The 'Threatened woodland birds of the Goulburn-Murray irrigation district' project involved surveying endangered Grey-crowned Babbler, Bush Stone-curlew and Superb Parrot numbers to determine their distribution and see what effect these works had on the birds' populations.

*The survey has highlighted the value of farmers' efforts to protect and expand habitat for these species on their properties through revegetation, retaining fallen logs and leaf litter, and fencing off large old trees and remnant vegetation.*

#### **Twilight @ McCrackens Bend**

Curlews, Culture and Community

It was a wonderful evening for our presentation on the curlews

Bertram Lobert shared lots of information

## Elmore Field Days

Elmore field days 2016 were challenging with the wet, cold weather. Gumboots were essential fashion items. We got through Tuesdays wild conditions and the next 2 days were good ☺ Thank you to Liz@Dookie Seed Bank for our Seed Bank display which generated a bit of discussion, along with the usual weed questions, bird observations and even some soil discussion ;) Thank you to our dedicated landcarers who came along to help in the tent: Brian Freemantle & Bob Greenaway, Neville & Lyn Hunter, David Doyle (aka Ellie!) Marissa O'Halloran, Tony & Lanie.



Numbers were down through our tent this year; the cold wet conditions didn't help. Campaspe Shire has decided not to continue the hire of the site and it is cost prohibitive for GMLN to take it on entirely. The Executive committee have put forward to have a Landcare presence at local shows and events across the year. Ellie included ☺



## Biodiversity Environment Aquatic Discovery

**Education**, as usual is constant. Our small, but dedicated team are fielding requests from all over the catchment. Sometimes we wonder if it will ever slow down, but then, it keeps us thinking and creates a really positive atmosphere around the place.

This year we have been involved in lots of things from kinder groups to festivals.

## City of Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project

As part of this project, we have assisted in connecting Shepp High School with people who work in the environmental area as a career path.

To complete our sessions, we spent a day down at the Melbourne Museum with the students.

Ken Walker - Head Entomologist at the Museum for gave up his time to give Shepparton High School Students an insight to "behind the scenes" at the Museum. It was a first time visit for some of the students, but one they will certainly remember. Only 1% of the collection is on display and we got to see some of the "stuff" and how it is stored. AMAZING!!! We were very proud of the students' behaviour. You did Shepp High proud!

## Tatura Primary School



Terry Court from Goulburn Valley Environment Group asked if we could run an environment day at Tatura Primary School. It's a while since we've done some activities with the school, so we enjoyed seeing them again.

It was loads of fun and we even got a fair mention in the Tatura Guardian. *We have a copy in the office if you would like to see us!*

Thank-you Jo, Andrea, John, Lanie and especially Terry for running the activities. There were worms, tracks and scats, water and land bugs, bush tucker and an activity about the importance of water and land usage. All area were covered.

## NAIDOC

**BARMAH:**

**Wednesday 6th July**

**Dharnya centre Barmah**

What a beautiful day Barmah put on for this year's NAIDOC celebrations. Lots of people about and lots of things to see and do.

It was great to see Strathallan Family Landcare once again attending with their nest boxes and the Superb Parrot Project had everyone painting up a storm with their tree-guard art works.

Wonderful weather and wonderful day!

## **RUMBALARA:**

**Thursday 7th July**

### **Rumbalara**

It was a quieter day at Rumbalara, but still plenty to see and do. They are just ramping up their activities and this was our first NAIDOC with them. We hope to celebrate many more at Rumba.



Thanks to Jean from COGS waste management team for inviting us to take part in the Schools Clean up Australia day event at Shepparton weir.

We were very pleased that our area, the Boulevard Reserve, was relatively clean with most of the rubbish we found was along the roadside.

Perhaps we need to educate the drivers about rubbishing rather than the walkers??

Well done to the schools involved

You should be very proud of your students!

## **waterways**

Corey Wilson—GBCMA organised a tremendous day based on the Broken Boosey Creek system.

A great environment day with heaps and heaps of kids, but to let them loose with a thousand fishing rods ..... I question his sanity! But it worked amazingly well.

A fantastic day at Dip Bridge, Katamatite and great collaboration between all our partners.

GBCMA; Stormwater; Parks Vic; Our 2 Cultural Officers; Fisheries; Landcare.

A Vary special mention to Numurkah fishing club and Katamatite Lions Club.

Volunteers like this are irreplaceable Looking forward to doing it all again.

## **Winton Wetlands – Mokoan Music Festival**

John and Lanie spent the day running children's activities at the Music Festival. It was an exhausting day as we had so many enthusiastic kids around us. Lots of interest in bugs and their homes. Towards the end of the day the children were out and about collecting creature and bringing them back for us to identify. It's an amazing sight to see the kids off exploring the area and discovering bugs for themselves. Hopefully we will be back again next year with another group of interested kids.



## **GOTAFE – drain stencilling – Stormwater**

The students from the GOTAFE English class were a pleasure to wander around the streets near GOTAFE and doing some Drain Stencilling. When you have a spray can and a stencil, the language barrier is easily overcome. It was followed up by an open day to showcase all of the environmental topics covered in their course. A very special way to communicate with our new arrivals.

## Soils Project

- GMLN partnered with GBCMA to put on & run an intensive short course in **Holistic Management** course for 21 participants. The diverse group of 21 gelled well, with Brian Wehlburg leading us through the teachings of Alan Savory. The group was a mix of farmers (crops, grazing, dairy), small landholders and consultants. Holistic Management is a broader way of thinking, looking for adaptive



processes involving monitoring & planning with the aim to be able to respond to changing circumstances. Understanding that nature is dynamic and to work with it we need to think dynamically. The course involved 4 sessions of 2 days each, once a month from Oct – Jan. Participants were encouraged to look at their personal and farm goals and use these to build management plans for the future. The course teaches skills that can be called upon in varying circumstances and enables the land manager to tackle variable conditions confidently.

We also ran a HM bus tour to Holbrook to visit 2 holistically managed properties. 14 participants enjoyed a very interesting and informative two days with the opportunity to meet and talk with long term holistic farmers; Anna & Mick Coughlan and Gill Taylor. They were so generous with their time and sharing their stories, successes and mistakes.

- GBCMA & GMLN partnered again to bring a newly developed course to our region: **Multi Species Cover Cropping** with Colin Seis & Graeme Hand. This is a practical short course where participants set up a trial on their farm. The group met 3 times between March & July (before sowing, midway & before harvest/next season sowing) Colin & Graeme provided advice and techniques on species choices for each trial site. Participants have enjoyed the chance to learn about this technique and having access to such experienced advice. We hope to run this course again soon.
- Soil Biology workshop. This was held in April at Lancaster with 20 people attending. David Hardwick took the group through how the soil 'functions' and highlighted how the soil organisms are an ecosystem; the 'engine room' of agricultural production. It was a very interesting and interactive day.
- Soils also joined in on Landcare school education days with fun and interesting activities and worms and soil and how soil critters are important in nutrient cycling. This was fun to be involved in and the kids seem to love the worms 😊

### Forum Dinner – Spring Celebration – Nov 2016

To round out the Farm Forum evening sessions we held a Celebration dinner at Kyabram Fauna Park with engaging speakers and tasty food (soil puddings included!) Truffles catering did a wonderful job.



Dale Grey (Ag Vic) sent through an engaging weather outlook presentation specially put together just for us.

Pug Ryan and David Gemmell from Bendigo, kept us enthralled with their photos and stories of raptors from their travels. It was impressive to see all the photos and information sharing at the end of the session.

### 2017 Farm Forum

Following the success of the evening sessions last year we put on a *Winter evenings* Farm Forum for 2017. 4 sessions were held on Wednesday evenings in June with the following topics: Farm Budgeting – *Tom Farran*, Data & Decisions on farm – *Nathan Scott*, Pasture Cropping – *Colin Seis & Graeme Hand* & Herbicide resistance in soil – *Mick Rose*. This year we included a light warm meal before the presentation and kept it to 1 speaker per night. The feedback was very positive with the format, timing and topics being appreciated.



### Floodplain Ecology Course 2016

Another fantastic year for the FEC. We again attracted a varied range of people, both as presenters and participants. All were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the entire week, and altering this year's timetable enabled the presenters to interact more easily both amongst themselves and with participants. We had a few challenges this year due to flooding. The ability to alter the venues and sites at short notice assisted in the smooth running of the course.

Participant's comments:

*The best aspect of this course (and it was hard to choose just one!) was how the information in all the sessions tied together so well – to show how all the components of soils, hydrology, sediments, vegetation and fauna all influence the floodplain environment.*

*Cultural knowledge was also valuable of the course.*

*Great group of people and presenters.*

*Neville and Ian a highlight in presenting historic formation of the geology and watercourses/paelo channels*

*Greta and Hilda plus the boat ride.*

*Meeting fabulous people and putting faces to manes of people whose papers I had read – eg: Ian and Neville*



**Lanie Pearce**  
Project coordinator



## Waterwatch Report

The GMLN maintains a close relationship with the Goulburn Broken Waterwatch Program, Goulburn Valley Water and the community to provide collaborative education programs for schools and community, and to gather important water quality data in priority catchments across the Goulburn and Broken catchments.

**The Program:** Waterwatch funding is still a year to year proposition, and this situation is set to continue into 2017/2018.

Waterwatch has been able to maintain substantial activity in schools and in the wider community.

**Education and Monitoring:** Goulburn Valley Water continues to support Waterwatch educational activities in schools. The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority funds the collection of water quality data including biological surveying in priority catchments.

Result/Indicator	Target	Achieved in 2016/2017
<i>Indicators:</i>		
1. No. of schools participating in WW	24 schools	51 schools
2. No. of students participating in WW	1,200 students	2,227 students
3. Teacher satisfaction with programs	90% satisfaction	94.5%
4. Number of sites monitored 2016/17		
5. Number of samples tested each year	90 sites monitored	94 sites each month (average)
6. Number of volunteer monitors	90 samples per month	103 per month (average)
7. Number of monitors trained to level 3	50 volunteer monitors	52
8. No. of monitors participating in QA program	All monitors trained to Level 3	52
9. Projects completed within budget	60% of monitors participate	71%
10. Timely preparation of Annual Reports		
11. Works monitoring projects		All projects within budget
12. Targetted Projects	100% within budget	Annual Reports to GBCMA by Aug 2015
	Annual Reports to GBCMA by Aug 2015	
	7 Projects	See below
	1 Project	LTIM in Lower Goulburn

During 2016/2017, 51 schools participated in Waterwatch activities. Over 2,227 students directly participated in water quality monitoring activities. In all, 4,849 students were exposed to catchment issues in one way or another.

Monitoring activities are now confined to GBCMA priority waterways and to externally funded projects. Some of these specific projects include:

1. Yea River Works;
2. Hollands Creek Catchment;
3. Broken River;
4. King Parrot Creek Works;
5. Hughes Creek Project;
6. Acheron and Rubicon River Works;
7. Upper Goulburn Works;
8. LTIMP in Lower Goulburn
9. Merton and Brankeet Creeks
10. Blackwater events, Broken River, Murray River – Barmah, Lower Goulburn River
11. LTIM - Long Term Intervention Monitoring Program

**LTIM in Lower Goulburn River:** In 2014, Monash University Victoria, Water Sciences Centre approached Goulburn Broken Waterwatch to assist with the collection of data and samples from the Lower Goulburn River. This project is known as the Long Term Intervention Monitoring Program.

A five year project that requires Waterwatch to:

1. Test water quality at four sites in the lower Goulburn River;
2. Collect samples for laboratory analysis; and
3. Download dissolved oxygen data from loggers at each site.

The key objectives of the program are to determine the effects of environmental watering on the rates of instream food production and ecosystem respiration within the Goulburn River.

Four dissolved oxygen loggers were placed at separate locations downstream of the Goulburn Weir at Nagambie and upstream of the Goulburn and Murray River confluence. Two light loggers were also placed at Nagambie and Shepparton to monitor light levels. Light has an effect on the food and respiration rates in waterways.

Parameters measured by Waterwatch and the University laboratory include:

- Dissolved oxygen (% saturation and mg/L)
- Electro-conductivity
- pH
- Temperature
- Chlorophyll-a
- Total phosphorus,
- Total nitrogen
- Filtered phosphorus and nitrogen & ammonium

- Dissolved organic carbon

Our contribution to research projects within our catchment and the challenge of being flexible will have positive outcomes for Goulburn Broken Waterwatch.

Water testing is now the priority activity for Waterwatch in the Goulburn Broken. In total, Waterwatch facilitators and volunteers tested 1,223 samples at 180 sites for a range of parameters such as turbidity, electrical conductivity, pH, total phosphorus, temperature, dissolved oxygen, Chemical Oxygen Demand, E coli, E coli and nitrates.

**Water Week:** National Water Week in October 2016 attracted participation by 50 schools and 6,551 students. Competitions were again a winner.

- 5,791 entries were received for the school "Snow Globe" activity. Students decorated snow globes with messages around the theme "What not to flush"; and
- 265 macro-invertebrate models were received for the Create-a-Critter project from five participating schools.

**Websites:** All data collected in the Goulburn Broken Waterwatch Program since 1993 can be viewed at: <http://vic.waterwatch.org.au/>

**Stormwater:** The Goulburn Broken Stormwater Project covers Moira Shire and the City of Greater Shepparton. The project aims to raise awareness of urban stormwater impacts on waterway quality in schools, the general community and industry, including local government. Education is the key tool for dealing with potential contamination of stormwater from residential households. It is also critical in raising awareness of the impact that businesses and local government can have on stormwater quality and promoting best practice principles in stormwater management.

The Program aims to:

- Increase community awareness and understanding of water quality issues;
- Increase community involvement in water management decisions; and,
- Generate useful data for community and agency use which complements that collected by Agency monitoring networks.

The schools continue to utilise our education team to provide the environmental aspect of the curriculum. We are lucky to be able to liaise with GV Water; Landcare; Broken Boosey CMN; Parks Victoria; COGS and Moira Shire; GBCMA; Melbourne Museum and many other individuals and agencies to deliver this effectively and efficiently.

Many of these schools used the project multiple times so that the entire school received some form of Stormwater education.

Result/Indicator	Target	Achieved in 2016/2017
<i>Indicators:</i>		
1. No. of students participating in Stormwater Education/yr	250 students per year	291 students
2. No. of schools participating in Environment Days/yr		
3. Number of sites monitored 2016/2017	No target	36 schools
4. Number of samples tested each year	19 sites monitored	19 sites
5. Timely preparation of Annual Reports	19 samples per month	19 per month (average)
	Annual Reports to GBCMA by Aug 2016	Annual Reports to GBCMA by Aug 2016

The Stormwater project is responsible for monitoring five waterbodies in the City of Greater Shepparton. They are:

1. Cussen Park - 3 sites
2. Lake Bartlett – 3 sites
3. Victoria Park Lake - 4 sites
4. Kialla Lakes - 4 sites
5. Mooroopna Bio-remediation Basin – 3 sites
6. Goulburn River – 2 sites

Water quality data reports were provided monthly to the Greater Shepparton City Council. This data is entered into the Waterwatch website for community access. <http://vic.waterwatch.org.au/>

**David Hodgkins**  
Goulburn Valley Water

## List of Employees

Andrea Montgomery	GMLN
Jo Doolan	GMLN
Raelene (Lanie) Pearce	Stormwater & GMLN
Carolena Helderma	GMLN
Kirsten Hogan	WaterWatch
Danielle Beischer	WaterWatch
Kerri Kallady-Robson	Gecko Clan
Chris Cobern	Upper Goulburn Fire Recovery
Cathy Olive	Upper Goulburn
Judith Watts	Upper Goulburn

### **Contract Employees**

Jill Breadon	WaterWatch
Wendy D'Amore	Bug Blitz

### **Memorandum of Understandings with**

Upper Goulburn Network  
Gecko Clan

## Audited Financials

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBER OF  
GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**

*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report of Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Inc presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Inc as of 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria.

*Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Inc meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

**RP & RG Pty Ltd T/As Wyndham Audit**  
**Chartered Accountant**

**Shepparton, VIC, 3630**

  
Auditor: Russell Guppy FCA

**Shepparton**

**Dated:**

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**INCOME STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue		878,304	623,212
Employee benefits expense		(399,432)	(444,860)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(2,793)	(5,550)
Other expenses		<u>(217,483)</u>	<u>(178,609)</u>
<b>Profit (loss) before income tax</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>258,586</b>	<b>(5,806)</b>
Income tax expense		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Profit (loss) for the year</b>		<b><u>258,586</u></b>	<b><u>(5,806)</u></b>
Profit (loss) attributable to members of the entity		<u>258,586</u>	<u>(5,806)</u>

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Profit (loss) for the year</b>		<b>258,586</b>	<b>(5,806)</b>
Other comprehensive income:		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income (expense) for the year</b>		<b><u>258,586</u></b>	<b><u>(5,806)</u></b>
Total comprehensive income (expense) attributable to members of the entity		<u>258,586</u>	<u>(5,806)</u>





**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on hand	3	335,843	394,794
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>335,843</u>	<u>394,794</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	-	2,793
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>2,793</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>335,843</u>	<u>397,587</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	5	19,597	27,782
Other	6	-	312,145
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>19,597</u>	<u>339,927</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>19,597</u>	<u>339,927</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>316,246</u>	<u>57,660</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained earnings		316,246	57,660
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>316,246</u>	<u>57,660</u>

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2015	63,466	63,466
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>		
Profit (loss) for the year	(5,806)	(5,806)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the association</b>	<u>(5,806)</u>	<u>(5,806)</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<u>57,660</u>	<u>57,660</u>
Balance at 1 July 2016	57,660	57,660
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>		
Profit for the year	258,586	258,586
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the association</b>	<u>258,586</u>	<u>258,586</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<u>316,246</u>	<u>316,246</u>

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Grants		507,910	716,349
Management fees		34,259	14,700
Reimbursements		4,246	6,524
Other		19,744	7,541
Payments to suppliers		(625,110)	(635,802)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(58,951)</b>	<b>109,313</b>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(58,951)	109,313
Cash on hand at beginning of financial year		394,794	285,481
<b>Cash on hand at end of financial year</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>335,843</b>	<b>394,794</b>

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

**(a) Income Tax**

The entity is exempt from income tax expense.

**(b) Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

**(c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

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 statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>2. PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>		
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Auditors' remuneration	4,200	4,200
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>3. CASH ON HAND</b>		
Bendigo bank term deposit	262,690	327,159
Bendigo bank cheque account	37,973	3,948
Bank bank savings	30,870	60,295
Bendigo bank wages	4,309	3,392
	<u>335,843</u>	<u>394,794</u>
<b>4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Motor vehicles	<u>-</u>	<u>2,793</u>
<b>5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Integrated client account	<u>19,597</u>	<u>27,782</u>
<b>6. OTHER LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Projects not completed	<u>-</u>	<u>312,145</u>
<b>7. CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
<b>(a) Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
Cash on hand at the end of financial year as included in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash at Bank	73,153	67,635
Term deposits	262,690	327,159
	<u>335,843</u>	<u>394,794</u>

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operating activities with net current year profit</b>		
Current year profit after income tax	258,586	(5,806)
Cash flows excluded from current year profit:		
Depreciation	2,793	5,550
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in accounts receivable	-	550
Increase/(Decrease) in accounts payable	(8,185)	(12,884)
Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(312,145)	121,903
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<u>(58,951)</u>	<u>109,313</u>

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Your committee members submit the financial report of Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

**Committee Members**

The names of the committee members in office at anytime during or since the end of the year are:

Raelene Pearce  
Craig Tuhon  
John Laing  
Bonny schnorrenberg  
David Sutton  
David Doyle  
Collier McCracken  
Patricia Moss  
Glen Thompson  
Brian Fremantle  
Graham Liersch


**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial year.

**Operating Result**

The profit after providing for income tax amounted to \$258,586.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Raelene Pearce**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Craig Tuhon**

**Dated:**

**GOULBURN MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC**  
**ABN 25 431 176 621**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The committee has determined that the association 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 statements.

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Inc, the members of the committee declare that the financial statements for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes:

1. present a true and fair view of the financial position of Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Inc as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012; and
2. at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

**President**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Raelene Pearce**

**Treasurer**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Craig Tulhan**

**Dated:**