



LANDCARE

NT

Annual Report 2018-19



About Us

Landcare NT is the peak body representing Landcare groups in the Northern Territory. It is a member of the National Landcare Network which is made up of the Landcare networks from each state and territory across Australia. The purpose of Landcare NT is to represent, strengthen, support, and grow the Northern Territory's community Landcare movement to improve the health of the natural environment and working landscapes in the interests of the community and future generations.

Management Committee

Chair and Public Officer: Sue McKinnon (Friends of Mitchell Creek)

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Treasurer: Liz Bird (Centralian Land Management Association)

Secretary: Vacant

Arid Lands Representative: Sunil Dhanji (Alice Springs Landcare Inc.)

Gulf Savannah Representative: Andrew 'Woody' Thies (Victoria River District Conservation Association)

Top End Representative: Annie Andrews (Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group)

Tablelands Representative: Stephani Grove (Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association)

Executive Officer: Madonna Wuttke

Contact Us

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Acknowledgements

Landcare NT acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands of the Northern Territory who have always carefully managed the lands on which we all live. We pay our respects to Aboriginal elders past and present, who continue to provide a wealth of expertise and guidance to land and sea management in the Northern Territory.

Members

- Roper River Landcare Group
- Rapid Creek Landcare Group
- Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group
- Friends of East Point
- Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group
- Friends of Mitchell Creek
- Centralian Land Management Association
- Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association
- Alice Springs Landcare Inc
- Holtze Landcare Group

- McMinns Lagoon Reserve Association
- Friends of Fogg Dam
- Olive Pink Botanic Gardens Landcare Group
- Victoria River & District Conservation Association
- Katherine Landcare Group
- NT Field Naturalists' Club

Associate Members

- Greening Australia NT
- Conservation Volunteers Australia NT
- Pew Environmental Trusts
- Environment Centre NT
- Larrakia Nation
- Land for Wildlife (Central Australia)



National
Landcare
Program



National
Landcare
Network

Landcare NT is supported by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Network

Chairpersons Report – Sue McKinnon

Welcome All! This AGM marks the completion of my fourth year as Chairperson of Landcare NT (LNT) also the fourth year since our incorporation.

Our current Board members are Liz Bird – Treasurer (CMLA); Annie Andrews, Top End Region (Ludmilla Landcare); Sunil Dhanji Arid Region (Alice Springs Landcare) with Stephani Grove, our Barkly Region Representative (Barkly Landcare Conservation Assoc), Andrew ‘Woody’ Theis our Gulf Savanna Regional Rep (VRDCA), and Justine Elder, Vice-Chairperson all stepping down due to interstate shifts during 18-19.

Our Executive Officer, Madonna Wuttke began the second year in her role in January 2019 and with a year’s more job experience under her belt, really lifted our level of operations through strengthening our Management Committee functions, expanding our membership base and developing our partnership goals with NT NRM and environmental organisations.

Operationally, four committee meetings were held throughout the report period with the AGM held in Darwin in November 2018. Stakeholder consultations were held in Alice Springs in May and Katherine and Darwin in June for the Volunteer Engagement Strategy project. While in Alice Springs we held a Committee Meeting face to face and joined in a field work session with Alice Springs Landcare Inc.

Promotion.

Landcare NT is proud to have provided sponsorship in 2018 to the TNRM Conference - which is an important skills and knowledge exchange forum for Landcarers and other natural resource managers.

Community Engagement.

Landcare NT - as a grassroots representative network - is considered as a valuable contributor by the NT Government and the NT NRM and environmental sector. As Chair I represent LNT on the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) and the Australian Association of Environmental Educators (NT Chapter) (AAEE). In addition, both government and the NGO sectors seek where relevant, LNT feedback to proposed legislation, two current examples being the NT climate change discussion paper and the legislation around the environmental protection review. I was also invited to be on the assessment panel for the NT Govt’s Environment Grants in late 2018.

National Landcare Network.

In my role as National Landcare Network (NLN) Board Director I participated in national Landcare discussions via regular phone hookups. Two interstate meetings were held in the last financial year, one of which I couldn’t attend due to a work commitment. Annie Andrews was able to attend as an observer in my place. Two major concerns for NLN during the period was to secure ongoing funding for the NLN and each of its members (the state and territory peak Landcare bodies such as Landcare NT), and to finalise the NLN-Landcare Australia Limited merger through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Both were concluded successfully. Both Madonna and Stephani -our NLN Members Councillors- were engaged in these NLN discussions contributing our members’ perspectives and returning to the NT with a wealth of knowledge.

In closing, a big thank you to my fellow Committee Members for your patience, input and efforts in going above and beyond in your continuing commitment to LNT during 2018-19.

I commend our Executive Officer, Madonna Wuttke, for her commitment in developing Landcare NT’s capacity and activities during last financial year. We have settled into our role as the NLN peak body in the NT strongly representing and supporting NT Landcare volunteers. This in turn supports our natural environment.

This AGM also marks my stepping down from the role of Landcare NT Chair and nominating for the role of Top End Regional Representative. From my perspective LNT has grown visibly stronger in its fourth year. I will still retain my role as an NLN Director. I'm keen to contribute through providing stability to the NLN Board during this testing time of the NLN - Landcare Australia restructure.

Sue McKinnon – Landcare NT Chairperson

Treasurers Report – Liz Bird

This is my second report as the Treasurer of Landcare NT and the past year has been a more stable one for the organisation.

Funding for our operations has been \$100,000 for the 2018/2019 from the Australian Government Dept of Agriculture & Water Resources (DAWR) delivered via sub-contract with the National Landcare Network (NLN). We also received \$22,565.91 which was for 2 grants- for the Volunteer Engagement Strategy and the Volunteer Grant Program.

The equity carried over from the previous year was \$50764.07. The equity at 30/6/19 was \$49259.08. Net loss for the year was (\$1504.99)

The \$36342.48 in unexpended funds is being is being carried over.

CLM Chartered Accountants performed our independent audit of financial accounts which was made available to the members on October 21st and is presented for endorsement at today's AGM.

Many thanks to Brian Board who has continued to act as the accounts officer for the association – paying and receiving bills and providing advice when needed. As a continued support to the Landcare NT group, his work is very much valued. During the last year the financial records were transitioned to cloud-based MYOB accounts, and Landcare NT has become single touch payroll (STP) compliant. Brian's own comment-It was great to get through the year without a change of staff, so thanks to Madonna for providing stability and taking an active interest in the finances of the organisation.

Moving forward, Landcare NT is confident it can meet any invoices coming in and fulfil the grants acquittals.

I thank you for your support to Landcare NT and ask for any questions on my report.

Liz Bird, Landcare NT Treasurer

Executive Officers Report – Madonna Wuttke

I started as the Executive Officer of Landcare NT (LNT) at the start of January 2018.

The funding from the "Subcontractor Agreement" with the National Landcare Network (NLN) for delivery of the project "Building Landcare Community and Capacity" via the National Landcare Program ensured operating funding for Landcare NT until the end of June 2019.

Landcare NT continued to operate this year with a part time executive officer and an independent contractor (Brian Board) who assists with the organisation's financial management.

Landcare NT's membership base has grown to include 18 member Landcare groups including a new Junior Landcare Group, and six (6) Associate Member organisations.

The LNT Committee saw some turnover during the financial year due to newly elected officers at our AGM and later, the resignation of the Barkly Landcare Conservation Association (BLCA) Coordinator and Vice-Chair from the committee leaving the Tablelands Regional representative and Vice-Chair positions vacant for part of the year. The Secretary position has remained vacant. As at June 2019, there was a total of five (5) committee members. It met four times in 2018-19, as well as an AGM for the previous financial year held in November 2018.

Landcare NT has taken its advocacy role seriously.

Landcare NT continues to advocate for a Local Coordinator Network in the NT that can assist on ground community Landcare Groups with governance, finance and project management. LNT's Operational Funding Proposal was presented to the NTG Minister for Environment without success. We will pursue other options.

Landcare NT was represented on the NLN Board by our committed Chair Sue McKinnon, who is one of its eight Directors and Annie Andrews (Top End Regional Representative) when Sue was unavailable. LNT Committee's Tablelands representative Stephani Grove, myself and Annie Andrews were privileged to be a part of the NLN Members Council with monthly teleconferences and two face-to-face meetings. Through these roles we were able to advocate on our members' behalf on many issues, including the merger with and restructure of Landcare Australia and various national Landcare projects. LNT also provided input into documents such as 'A policy roadmap for Landcare in Australia', NLN's Strategic Plan, 'The Benefits of Community Landcare: The Value Proposition' and 'The Value of Community Landcare: A Literature Review'.

Landcare NT is represented also by Sue on the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) and the NT Chapter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE).

- LNT supported ALEC & ECNT's 'Climate Response Statement' presented to the NTG and contributed to the stakeholder consultation regarding 'Establishing a Framework of NT Environmental Values and Objectives', undertaken by the NT Government.
- In order to service the needs of our members we worked on designing and securing funding for several projects. Landcare NT was successful in winning two funding grants.
- The development of a Volunteer Engagement Strategy was successfully funded through the NT Government's Environment Grants. This project will be completed in early 2020.
- Landcare NT was successful in receiving a Volunteer Grant through the Australian Government Department of Social Services to enable the purchase of fuel vouchers and other resources for the use of Landcare NT member groups.

We promoted Landcare in the NT in many ways.

- LNT maintained a FB page and website for member information – promoting members' events along with funding and training opportunities and available resources.
- We attended TNRM's conference and awards ceremony and local events associated with TNRM's NT Soil Consortium project.
- We provided support to and attended member group open days, field days and community information days including Bushcare's Major Day Out at McMinns Lagoon Recreation Reserve, Katherine Expo (for new Defence personnel), a Gamba Grass Information Day organized by the Edith Farms Bush Fire Brigade and the NTG DPIR's Katherine Research Station Field day where Landcare NT's office is currently based.

- We attended the 2018 National Landcare Conference and met with other state and Territory Landcare organisations to learn and share knowledge.
- We continue to work hard to maintain partnerships, develop new working relationships with other organisations and support our member groups.
- Landcare NT was a bronze sponsor at the 2018 TNRM Conference and communicates regularly with the NT's Regional NRM Body regarding events, grant and training opportunities, potential project proposals and reciprocal support for funding applications.
- Landcare NT participated in stakeholder discussions and is now partnering with PEW Charitable Trusts to develop a research report about the benefits of conservation on private land, and in particular, pastoral leases.
- As the funding for local coordinators has declined, the demand for governance advice has increased over the last financial year. Landcare NT has been active in providing advice and assistance to Landcare Groups regarding compliance, finance and dissolution of associations with direction from Licensing NT.
- LNT supported its member groups with small grants to assist in undertaking activities, including attendance at award ceremonies, running workshops and printing brochures.
- Landcare NT continues to play a small role in connecting volunteers with local Landcare groups.
- We continue to address multiple requests from schools for resources, information, and presentations.

I would like to thank the LNT Committee and members for your ongoing support and encouragement throughout the recent year.

Many thanks, Madonna Wuttke – Landcare NT Executive Officer.