



LANDCARE

NT

Annual Report 2019-20



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: Annie Andrews (Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group)

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Treasurer: Liz Bird (Centralian Land Management Association)

Secretary: Vacant

Public Officer: Sue McKinnon (Friends of Mitchell Creek)

Lands Representative: Ian Coleman (Olive Pick Botanical Garden)

Gulf Savannah Representative: Clair O'Brien (Roper River Landcare Group)

Top End Representative: Sue McKinnon (Friends of Mitchell Creek)

Tablelands Representative: Vacant

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 – Annie Andrews

Welcome All! This AGM marks the end of my first year as the LNT Chair and tabling of my 2nd Chair's report. It's been an interesting year all round. Learning the operation of the NLN, operation of the other STO's, the off/on ongoing NLN/LAL merger and finally and most importantly operation of LNT. As I have learnt, LNT's interests extend across various areas including keeping up to date and engaging in national Landcare matters, reaching out to stakeholders, responding (often at short notice) to funding requests, staying across NT Landcare issues which span a massive and diverse landmass managed often by stretched and limited resources. All the while growing and maturing our organisation into a true representative body. We are slowly getting there – one bite at a time in a strategic manner.

None of this would be achievable without an engaged and strong committee. Big thanks to each of you on the committee. At times there can be a lot of emails coming through for comment or endorsement, and you have all stepped up at times to keep things progressing. Thanks.

Thanks also to Madonna's ongoing and unwavering commitment and dedication in times I am sure can be overwhelming and unclear. Madonna without fail, in challenging times has kept things together over the year, embraced feedback and initiated numerous projects/engagement activities. Thanks again.

Below is a snapshot of where we sit now and our key achievements for the year.

LNT Financials/Resourcing - LNT continues to maintain a solid financial position. Operational funding remained the same as the FY18/19 at \$100K. We were also fortunate to secure two small grants which allowed us to progress a couple of small but key pieces of work, one being the Business Overview. Our surplus has also allowed us to engage external specialist services to progress some other projects (i.e.: Projects Plan for future funding opportunities). Engaging external support, when we have the opportunity always allows us to build our base which then leads into being able to support our members better and delivering on the overall objectives of the National Landcare Network (NLN).

Further to the above an Independent financial audit was performed this year. The findings of the audit supported our financial position as tabled at our committee meetings.

The NLN have also been clarifying their funding framework for various STO's, specifically identifying categories (i.e.: mature, emerging) of performance levels and expected deliverables. This is then linked to annual funding. This is a good move by the NLN by assisting to clarify expectations for each STO. It should be noted that the LNT is the emerging category and based on funding/resourcing and industry maturity, we expect to stay until the situation changes.

Further details on our financial position can be found in the Treasurers report.

Operational Matters

A full account of operational matters can be found in the EO report for your review. Below is a summary of key items as relevant to the AGM:

- Input into a number of national submissions.
- Completion of a Business Overview report. Key actions of which have been pulled out and combined into a draft Business Plan 20/21. I note the business plan is yet to be finalised,

h/w LNT actions are progressing in line with the draft plan (i.e.: engagement of a Communications Consultant, drafting of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan etc). Updates on progress on key matters are provided at committee meetings.

- Participation in a range of stakeholder engagement activities, including community information days, input to industry position papers and facilitate connection between different land management groups.

Thank-you for your ongoing support to Landcare NT and ask for any questions/feedback on my report.

Annie Andrews - Landcare NT Chairperson

Treasurers Report – Liz Bird

Apologies for my absence today, but family duties interstate call, at this time. I would like to submit my third report as Landcare NT Treasurer for the chair to present to the meeting.

All figures in this report and the attached financials are net of GST.

Funding for our operations has again been \$100,000 for the 2019/2020 from the Australian Government Dept of Agriculture & Water Resources (DAWR) delivered via sub-contract with the National Landcare Network (NLN).

We also received \$9582.00 for two grants over the year: Business Overview \$5454.55 & Volunteer Grants 20 \$4127.27.

We began the year with \$36,342 in Unexpended Funds being carried over and have \$49,894 to be carried into the 20/21 year.

Carried over equity from 1/7/2019 was \$42,259 and at the end of 30/06/2020 was \$65,085.

Our net surplus for the year was \$15,826.

CLM Chartered Accountants performed our independent audit of financial accounts which was made available to the members on October 26th and is presented for endorsement at today's AGM.

Many thanks to Brian Board who has continued to function 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.

Brian Board our bookkeeper has added “Landcare NT looks in pretty good shape, it's been great to have the continuity with Madonna over a few years.”

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.

Regards,

Liz Bird, 20/21 Year Treasurer

Executive Officers Report – Madonna Wuttke

I started as the Executive Officer of Landcare NT (LNT) in 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 2020.

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 includes eighteen member Landcare groups including a new Junior Landcare Group, and four (4) Associate Member organisations with the departure of Greening Australia and Conservation Volunteers Australia from the NT during this reporting period.

The LNT Committee saw some turnover during the financial year due to newly elected officers at our AGM. The Members of the LNT Committee as of 30 June 2020 are:

- Chairperson – Annie Andrews (Ludmilla Creek Landcare)
- Treasurer – Liz Bird (Centralian Land Management Association)
- Public Officer – Sue McKinnon (Friends of Mitchell Creek)
- Arid Lands Regional Representative – Ian Coleman (Olive Pink Botanic Garden Landcare Group)
- Gulf/Savanna Regional Representative – Clair O’Brien (Roper River Landcare Group)
- Top End Regional Representative – Sue McKinnon (Friends of Mitchell Creek)
- Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Barkly Tablelands Regional Representative - Vacant

The LNT Committee met four times in 2019-20, as well as an AGM for the previous financial year held in November 2019.

Landcare NT has taken its advocacy role seriously.

Landcare NT continues to advocate for a Coordinator Network in the NT that can assist on ground community Landcare Groups with governance, finance, and project management. Using the national Landcare Policy Paper ‘A policy roadmap for Landcare in Australia’ written by the National Landcare Network (NLN), LNT liaised with local Members of Parliament to talk about the value of community Landcare. We continue to explore opportunities to reinstate a Landcare coordinator network in the NT and secure funding for insurance for our volunteer groups.

Landcare NT was represented on the NLN Board by Sue McKinnon, one of eight Directors, each from the State and Territory Peak Landcare Organisations. LNT Committee’s Chair, Annie Andrews, myself, and Mike Clark have been privileged to be a part of the NLN Members Council with monthly online meetings and one face-to-face meeting held in Hobart in November 2019. There was no further face to face meetings during the reporting period due to Covid-19. Through these roles we were able to advocate on our members’ behalf on national projects, including:

- the proposed merger between Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network,
- the National Landcare Farming Program,
- the ‘30 Years of Landcare’ project, and
- the 2019 NT Landcare Awards and Landcare Week

LNT also provided input into national submissions including:

- The Royal Commission on National Natural Disaster Arrangements,
- Design of the National Future Drought Fund,
- Review of the 1999 National Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act,
- The National Landcare Network's Strategic Plan, and
- Recommendations for a regional framework of national NRM delivery

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).

To service the needs of our members we designed and securing funding for several projects, two of which were successful.

- A Business Overview Report for Landcare NT was compiled using funding from the NTG Dept of Trade, Business & Innovation's Business Growth Program. This report highlighted opportunities to increase internal efficiencies and external communications and identified potential areas for further collaboration with NT and national organisations.
- Landcare NT received its second Volunteer Grant through the Australian Government Department of Social Services to enable the purchase of fuel vouchers, first aid equipment and training, and other resources for the use of Landcare NT member groups.

We promoted Landcare in the NT.

- LNT maintained a FB page and website for member information – promoting members' events and stories along with funding and training opportunities and available resources.
- We provided support to and attended community information days including Bushcare's Major Day Out at McMinns Lagoon Recreation Reserve and Katherine Expo (for new Defence personnel) and a number of Landcare site visits in the Top End with a representative from Landcare Australia to showcase the incredible work of NT's volunteer Landcare groups.

We continue to work hard to maintain partnerships, develop new working relationships with other organisations and support our member groups.

- Landcare NT completed a Volunteer Engagement Strategy in early 2020 – a document created to assist Landcare Groups in the NT with attracting and retaining volunteers in their organisations.
- Landcare NT partnered with PEW Charitable Trusts to develop a research report about the benefits of Conservation on Private Land in the NT, and in particular, pastoral leases.
- LNT assisted with the promotion of and attended the NT Environment Centre's solar campaign workshop - 'Repower the NT.'
- Working with the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator, TNRM, Landcare NT promoted training opportunities and assisted with recruiting attendees for the NT Soil Symposium and 'Digging Deeper' on farm workshops.
- Creating strong links with research organisations is essential for providing information, knowledge, and opportunities to Landcare NT's members. The LNT EO attended the Charles Darwin University's Hands Up Expo to promote Landcare in the NT, increase volunteer participation, form new relationships with other NT volunteer organisations and seek opportunities for collaboration.
- Landcare NT communicated with the NT's Regional NRM Body regarding events, grant and training opportunities, potential project proposals and support for funding applications and assisted with the application and assessment processes for the 2019 NT Landcare Awards.

- As the funding for local coordinators has ceased, the demand for governance advice continues to increase. Landcare NT has been active in providing advice and assistance to Landcare Groups regarding insurance, compliance, finance, MOUs, and dissolution of associations with direction from Licensing NT. Landcare NT continues to facilitate connections between Landcare Groups and NTG government agencies such as Bushfires NT, Weeds Branch and Primary Industries.
- There has been an increase in enquiries from volunteers wanting to work with Landcare Groups in the NT. LNT continues to function as a conduit, facilitating connections between individuals and Groups. Corporate Volunteering has been a growth area over the last year with one such group, Gallagher Bassett collaborating with Friends of Fogg Dam to clear walkways and remove weeds.
- We continue to address multiple requests from schools for resources, information, and presentations. Landcare NT assisted with the facilitation of two successful visits of the Clontarf Foundation to Top End member groups during this reporting period.

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