



LANDCARE

NT

Annual Report 2020-21



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

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Treasurer: Liz Bird (Centralian Land Management Association)

Public Officer: Sue McKinnon (Friends of Mitchell Creek)

Arid 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

- NT Field Naturalists Club
- Alice Springs Landcare Inc
- Holtze Landcare Group
- Centralian Land Management Assoc
- Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group
- Friends of East Point
- Friends of Fogg Dam
- Friends of Mitchell Creek
- Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group
- McMinns Lagoon Landcare Group
- Rapid Creek Landcare Group
- Roper River Landcare Group
- Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association
- Katherine Landcare Group
- Olive Pink Botanic Gardens Landcare
- Victoria River District Conservation Association (VRDCA)
- Arnhem Coast Clean-Up
- Berry Springs Primary School Junior Landcare
- Katherine South Primary School
- Friends of Robin Falls

Associate Members

- NT Cattlemen's Association
- NT Farmers
- Linda Blackwood
- Pew Environmental Trusts
- Environment Centre NT
- Larrakia Nation
- Land for Wildlife (Central Australia)



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

Chairpersons Report – Annie Andrews

First of all, I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet via MS Teams today. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present.

Thank you to the LNT Committee members – ongoing, outgoing, and new staff and membership for your ongoing support.

LNT has continued to manage a growing stream of activities as well as securing a significant grant via the National Landcare Program's Smart Farms Small (detailed in the EO report). At times it has been challenging to prioritise and progress key items while being distracted by the day-to-day items. We are discussing ways to improve this so we can focus more time on strategic items where we will get more 'bang for buck' – updating of the Strategic Plan in the first half of 2022 will be key to achieving some of these goals as well as aligning active.

Financially, LNT continues to be in a solid position. Liz and Madonna continue to provide excellent oversight and accountability to ensure our overall funding allocation aligns with specific deliverables.

LNT has continued to benefit from having Sheree Bowman on board to assist Madonna (Executive Officer). Sheree's wide range of relevant skills, experience and insight has been invaluable to LNT, and we look forward to Sheree's continued input to LNT.

In summary, LNT has continued to grow and cement its role within the Landcare/natural resource management sector in the Northern Territory. As we move into the 2021/22 FY, we are in a good position to leverage off of the work completed in this financial year.

Updating the Strategic Plan and aligning with priorities/issues of our member groups and the NLN Members Council and Board will be essential in this process.

Regards, Annie Andrews - Landcare NT Chairperson

Treasurers Report – Liz Bird

Today, I would like to submit my fourth and final report as the Landcare NT Treasurer. I hope that LNT can find a replacement for this position as it is a very important one for the organisation. Having Brian Board as the bookkeeper makes the job of the volunteer and the EO so much easier to manage, plus gives another perspective to the financial handling of the association.

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

Funding for our Operations has again been \$98,885.58 for the 20/21 year, from the Australian Government Dept of Agriculture & Water Resources (DAWR) delivered via sub-contract with the National Landcare Network (NLN).

We also received \$61,100 from the Aust Federal Govt and \$2500 from Connellan Airways for the Aileron Field days to deliver the Smart Farms Project (the recent Field Days held at Aileron in October), as well as \$3636 from Dept Tourism Industry & Trade for website upgrades & support; as well as \$5000 from the ATO for our Cashflow Boost.

For our Expenses, most are last year's spending, with some extra payments for the Website, being the Website upgrade via a grant and Subscriptions & Memberships being NLN Subscription which had not been requested in previous years.

We began the year with \$49,894 in Unexpended Funds being carried over and have \$ 111,436 to be carried into the 21/22 year.

Carried over equity from 1/7/2020 was \$65,085 and at the end of 30/06/2021 was \$72,620.

Our net surplus for the year was \$7,535.

CLM Chartered Accountants performed our independent audit of financial accounts which was made available to the members on October 27th 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.

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 AG Dept of Agriculture, Water and Environment's National Landcare Program ensured operating funding for Landcare NT until the end of June 2021.

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. Additional support for administration and communication was secured using Landcare NT's ATO (Covid) Cashflow Bonus with Sheree Bowman contracted in November 2020 for one day per week.

Landcare NT's membership of Landcare Groups is now at 20 with the inclusion of 'Friends of Robin Falls'. Associate membership has grown to six (6) with the addition of the NT Cattlemen's Association and an individual landholder in the Katherine region.

The LNT Committee remained stable between AGMs. The Members of the LNT Committee as of 30 June 2021 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 2020-21, as well as an AGM for the previous financial year held in November 2020.

Landcare NT became a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

ADVOCACY

SERA Conference

Landcare NT with representatives from three of its member groups – Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group, Friends of Fogg Dam and Centralian Land Management were invited to present at the Society of Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) Conference in Darwin in May 2021. The presentations showcased the valuable work that Landcare groups undertake on a regular basis to protect and conserve the Northern Territory's natural habitats. Landcare NT highlighted the decline in support for community Landcare in the NT and proposed that national NRM funding be based on land mass and natural assets rather than population and that a local coordinator network be reinstated to assist groups and increase incorporation of local knowledge into decision-making processes and NRM policy development.

National Conservation & Land Management Stimulus Package

Initiated by PEW Environmental Trusts, Landcare NT joined 70+ NRM organisations across Australia to petition the Australian Government to include a 'green' stimulus package as part of broader economic stimulus measures to address the economic crisis that covid posed to Australia. LNT contributed project ideas from its members, lobbied NT, and Australian members of Parliament for their support, presented information at the Big Rivers Regional Reconstruction Committee and engaged with media to promote the national proposal.

Review of NT NRM Plan

With a focus on the 'Knowledge, Capacity and Engagement' program, Landcare NT participated in the Review of the 2016-2020 NT NRM Plan and provided input to the development of the 2021-2025 NT NRM Plan. Input related to the need for dedicated coordination/facilitation roles to enable opportunities to be realized and links to be created between NRM groups, research organisations, industry, government agencies and funding bodies and that NRM funding be based on land mass rather than population.

National Representation and the National Landcare Network (NLN)

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 participated in the NLN Members Council with monthly online meetings and workshops. There were no 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:

- National Landcare Roadmap
- NLN National Partnerships

- (proposed) merger between Landcare Australia and the NLN
- National Landcare Farming Program
- National Landcare Conference
- Landcare Australia's National Landcare Well-being survey
- National Parliamentary Friends of Landcare
- Landcare Youth Summit (pilot)
- LNT provided input into national submissions and consultations including:
- The proposed National Conservation and Land Management Stimulus Package – 70+ NRM orgs around Australia – initiated by PEW Environmental Trusts
- National Bushfire Recovery Fund
- Design of the National Future Drought Fund

NT Representation

- Landcare NT is represented on the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) by Sue McKinnon and the Katherine Regional Weeds Reference Group by the Executive Officer.

PROJECTS / GRANTS

A Digital Solutions program was accessed with funding from the NTG Dept of Trade, Business & Innovation's Business Growth Program. This allowed LNT to undertake training in new software, implement communication efficiencies by linking social media platforms, its newsletter system and LNT's website.

Landcare NT received its third Volunteer Grant through the Australian Government Department of Social Services to enable volunteers to access first aid training and equipment.

Success was had with the National Landcare Program's Smart Farms Small Grants to run field days in Central Australia with a focus on Sustainable Land Management on Central Australian Rangelands. LNT also secured sponsorship from Connellan Airways Trust, Meat & Livestock Australia, the National Recovery & Resilience Agency, and Arafura Resources.

KSPS Junior Landcare Grant – LNT assisted with project planning, sought local sponsorship, and assisted with the application.

PROMOTION

Due to Covid, promotion of LNT and its members was mostly via its FB page and website which shared members' events and stories along with funding and training opportunities and available resources. There was a 33% increase in LNT's FB followers.

Katherine South Primary School, one of LNT's Junior Landcare Groups, was showcased in Landcare Australia's national magazine 'Landcare in Focus' with content compiled by Landcare NT.

We provided support to and attended community information days including:

- NT Farmer's Food Futures Roadshow
- Katherine South Primary School's Mad Scientist Event
- Landcare site visits that showcased the incredible work of NT's volunteer Landcare groups

PARTNERSHIPS

Creating partnerships with organisations working in the Landcare space is essential for Landcare NT to be able to support its members, share information, promote events, create opportunities for collaboration and to provide input into relevant consultations. Some of the organisations that Landcare NT engaged with during the year include:

- NT Industry representative bodies (NT Cattlemen’s Association, NT Farmers Association)
- NT & National NGOs (PEW Charitable Trusts, Volunteering NT)
- NTG departments and agencies (DITT, Weeds Branch, Water Resources, Bushfires NT, Parks & Wildlife, NT Business Events)
- NT NRM Regional Body (TNRM)
- Indigenous Organisations (NLC, CLC)
- Workplace rehabilitation organisations & Corporate Volunteers
- Australian Government agencies – National Recovery & Resilience Agency
- All State and Territory Landcare Organisations e.g., Landcare NSW, WA Landcare Network, QLD Water & Landcarers
- Schools and outdoor education organisations

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

Landcare NT supports its members by sharing information, providing support and advice, advocating for a supported Landcare network in the NT and facilitating connections between volunteers and Landcare Groups.

- LNT is in regular communication with members and undertakes site visits to gain an understanding of member needs to assist where relevant and provide an NT perspective when consulted on Territory and national Landcare issues and initiatives.
- With interest from Barkly residents to revitalize the Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association (BLCA) a group with membership that covers an area of 300,000km², LNT assisted with communication, governance, and meeting administration to facilitate the forming of a new committee.
- Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group with LNT’s support was successful in obtaining NTG funding for insurance on NT Parks and Reserves and the zoning of a cat containment area on land being developed for housing.
- LNT assisted with the CLMA’s application for the General Jeffery Soil Health Award – a national award recognizing an individual’s work to champion, improve and/or educate others in soil health.
- LNT provided support and advice to the Roper River Landcare Group for their Neem Blitz project.
- LNT has supported member groups with navigating Covid-related directives from the NTG by sourcing information, querying guidelines, and providing relevant information to those members involved in working bees, public events, and general administration.
- LNT facilitated a Top End visit by high school students with Rustic Pathways (Victoria) – an experiential education and community service travel program. Activities were planned with McMinn’s Lagoon Reserve Landcare Group, Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group and FrogWatch but unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, the students were unable to visit the NT.

- LNT continues to facilitate connections between individual volunteers in the NT and Landcare Groups.

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