



Weddin
Landcare

2022-2023

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



Chairperson's Message

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the previous Chairman, James Maslin who held the position until 29 March 2023. For many years James was at the helm and guided the group with purpose.

The Minister, Tora Moriarty has contacted Weddin Landcare with an assurance of \$59M pledge to fund the NSW Landcare program over the next 4 years. She assures us this is to increase capacity and capability compared with previous programs, which is good news.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible amount of work that Melanie Cooper has delivered over the previous year. Melanie continues with successful on ground projects and events as evidenced in this report.

The employment of Claire Diprose has been successful. Claire has added value with social media expertise. She has taken on the responsibility of the newsletter, to free up Melanie's time for on ground works, and has proven her skill with event management orchestrating alongside Melanie Cooper the Henry Lawson Festival walking exhibit of the aspects of what we do, so well.

The Community Nursery goes from strength to strength, a tribute to the team that, using their daily mix of Seasol and hard work, produces fertility, output and respect.

With financial reporting, the introduction of Xero accounting allows consistent transparency of all balance sheets. Thank you to Treasurer, Phillip Diprose for pushing the barrow.

To each one of you thank you for your contribution to Weddin Landcare. Without the individual we would not be the organisation we are in 2023.

Clemence Matchett

Chairperson – Weddin Landcare Steering Committee



Local Land Services

This initiative made possible by the NSW Landcare Program.
A collaboration of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW Inc.
supported by the NSW Government.



Weddin Landcare Steering Committee

Weddin Landcare recently changed their constitution and financial year, which will now run from 1 July - 30 June. At the Weddin Landcare AGM held on 29 March 2023, the executive committee was elected as follows:

Position	Elected member
Chairperson	Clemence Matchett
Vice Chairperson	James Maslin
Secretary	Geoff Draffin
Treasurer	Phillip Diprose
Public Officer	John Johnson
Weddin Community Native Nursery delegate	Jan Diprose
Weeds Committee delegate	Keith Starr
Weddin Shire Council delegate	Phillip Diprose
Ordinary members	Mikla Lewis, Alan Griffiths, Bill White, Amber Atkins Anthony Myers, Barry Hawthorn, Belinda Power Linda Maslin, Jason Livissianos, Margaret Nowlan Megan Starr, Penny Edgerton, Stephen Pereira.

Membership

At the local level, Weddin Landcare has 278 subscribers, which is 54 more than last year. There are currently 21 Weddin Landcare Steering Committee members.

Employees

Melanie Cooper remains as the Local Landcare Coordinator for the Weddin District. In June 2023, Weddin Landcare employed Claire Diprose as a Communications Officer to assist Melanie. Claire and Melanie generally work Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm.

Summary of Achievements

2022-2023



Funding dollars attracted = \$74,344



Contribution to local economy = \$125,397



Trees planted = 1,230



Area land protected/rehabilitated = 1,836Ha



Events held = 39



Number of people educated = 270

Projects

Vaughn's Dam Reserve

Box-Gum Grassy Woodland habitat restoration works continue at Vaughn's Dam Reserve with 100 trees planted as part of National Tree Day in July 2022. Monitoring of nestboxes took place in July 2022, with several bird species as well as possums utilising the boxes. Woody weed removal along the creekline has continued, with more to be removed later in 2023.

In 2022, Weddin Landcare gained \$5,400 of funding gained through FRRR ANZ Seeds of Renewal Grants to fund a Masterplan for Vaughn's Dam Reserve. Sally Bourne has been contracted to design a Masterplan for the Reserve that will formalise the visions of project partners to create an inclusive, educational, culturally dynamic and natural community space that preserves and enhances habitat for local flora and fauna at Vaughn's Dam. The plan developed by this project can then be used to seek funding to implement components of the plan in the future. Sally has produced a draft plan, which has now been presented to the working group, Central West Local Land Services, Weddin Shire Council and Crown Lands. The broader community is now being consulted prior to the plan being finalised before November.



Top: National Tree Day 2022 – Isabelle Cooper (left); Carol Whyte and Mikla Lewis (middle), and Robert and Susan Baldwin (right)

Bottom Left: JG Arbor conducted nest box monitoring and woody weed removal at Vaughn's Dam.

Bottom right: Sally Bourne presenting the Masterplan to the working group.

Keeping Cats Safe at Home

In October 2022, we celebrated the 100th cat being desexed through the KCSAH project with a media event at Lachlan Valley Vets in Grenfell.

Around 200 cats have now been desexed through the project, which Weddin Landcare continues to support through dissemination of information, social media posts and input into project meetings. An educational program is being planned for roll-out in local schools.



A media event was held in Grenfell for the 100th cat with Weddin Shire Council, Lachlan Valley Vets, RSPCA NSW, Weddin Landcare and cat owners interviewed.

Small Environmental Grants 2021

The projects for our 2021 Small Environmental Grants project, which were delayed due to wet weather, have now been completed and final inspections are currently being undertaken. These projects addressed erosion on private land within the District and included the establishment of two droughtlots to help preserve groundcover, two riparian streambank erosion projects and one perennial pasture establishment project.



A perennial pasture established as part of our Small Grants – Erosion funding.

Bird Surveys/ Caragabal Bird Art Extension

The Birding NSW Spring 2022 surveys were cancelled due to wet weather; however, the Autumn 2023 surveys went ahead, with a community bird walk held.

The Caragabal Bird Art Extension was completed in early August 2022. The extension involved three more threatened species being added to the Bird Art on the western wall of the shed and updating the brochure. Eggpicnic again provided the design and Central West Local Land Services supported the addition through their Securing the Swift Parrot Project, with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



The three new species on the western wall of the Caragabal Bird Art shed are the (l-r) Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater and Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

Aboriginal Engagement

Weddin Landcare has developed a good working relationship with Aunty Julie Ferguson and other local Wiradjuri people. We held a small stand at the NAIDOC day at Taylor Park in September 2022 and created a new native garden at Caragabal Public School around their Wiradjuri Story Poles. The garden incorporated many traditional plants and the children were informed of their uses.



Left: NAIDOC day celebrations 2022. Right: With Aunty Julie in the new native garden at Caragabal

Ooma Creek Tributaries Riparian Restoration Project

Weddin Landcare gained \$50,000 of funding through Local Land Services to undertake riparian restoration works on three tributaries of the Ooma Creek. Works include woody weed removal, fencing to control stock access to the creeks, revegetation of the riparian area and several leaky weirs to help stabilise the bed and banks of one section of creek. This will provide protection and creation of valuable riparian habitat, reduce streambank erosion and help to improve water quality downstream in the Ooma Creek catchment and beyond.

The project builds on a highly successful project conducted almost 20 years ago in the Ooma Creek Catchment and will see 3.18km (around 28.5Ha) of creekline restored, with around 2,700 trees to be planted.



The three sites that will be rehabilitated as part of the Ooma Creek Tributary Riparian Restoration Project.

Weddin Community Native Nursery

We have again had a busy and successful year at the Nursery.

In July we celebrated National Tree Day with a giveaway to the community and also to Quandialla Public School, Caragabal Public School, St. Joseph's and The Henry Lawson High School.

We had an enjoyable night at Unwind to celebrate National Threatened Species Day on 7th September which was well attended. Noel Cartwright presented his DVD on our local flora and fauna. Peter Olde, OAM, was our guest speaker giving a presentation on existing, threatened and new grevilleas found in Australia.

The Nursery adopted five trees through the Rotary initiative to replant areas affected by bushfire.

During the year we were visited by groups of students from The Henry Lawson High School, the Grenfell Girl Guides and Vacation Care children. A seed collecting workshop was organised by Melanie and this enabled nursery volunteers to update their seed collecting knowledge and skills.

The Nursery has continued to have a steady flow of orders from CWLLS; Mid-Lachlan Landcare; Parkes, Hilltops and Weddin Shire Councils; Young Lions Club; St. Mary's School; plus many landholders and community members across our and neighbouring areas.

Our front garden is continually being maintained and a wattle walk has been established outside the fence on the southern end of the Nursery. Plant signs have now been placed on most of our featured plants in these gardens.

Our outdoor garden furniture set was purchased and is well used. A ramp has been set up to the work room for easy access for trolleys and visitors. A reverse cycle airconditioner has recently been installed in the workroom which will make conditions much more pleasant for volunteers.

We have had three new people begin volunteering this year which is great news.

Jan Diprose

Chairperson - Weddin Community Native Nursery



Events

Wattle Day

We held a very successful Wattle Day in August 2022 with Mikla Lewis and special guest speaker, Prof. Mark Adams, who gave a fantastic talk about the valuable adaptations of Acacias for sequestering carbon in our Australian climate.



Around 40 people attended Wattle Day, making it one of our most successful events this year.

Grazing tour

In August 2022, Weddin Landcare members joined with Condobolin and Districts Landcare for a Grazing Tour. We visited three properties that have adopted improved grazing management practices for over 15 years including Dan and Bron Rogers (West Wyalong), David and Mary Marsh (Boorowa) and Scott and Anne Hickman (Canowindra).



RCS Grazing Clinic

From 23-25 August Weddin Landcare hosted a three-day RCS Grazing Clinic in Grenfell. Twenty-five farmers attended the course, with a mix of locals and some travelling from further away.



Weddin Grazing Group Days

From the RCS Grazing Clinic, we have been able to develop a Weddin Grazing Group, which is supported by Melanie along with Scott Hickman. The group provides an opportunity for peer support and guidance for farmers trying to improve their practices or transition to regenerative agriculture. The aim is to hold at least one session a quarter, with two sessions already being held. The days are rotated around the participants properties and generally involve an informal chat and opportunity to ask questions and discuss ideas they are implementing or hurdles they are facing. The host provides an overview of their system and we look at points of interest eg. paddocks, yards, machinery, set ups.



Seed Collecting and Cleaning Workshops

Fifteen community members attended our seed collecting workshop on 30 November 2022. The day, funded through our Michael King Nursery Grant, ran successfully with a presentation from Mikla Lewis followed by a field trip to have a look at some examples of the different types of native plants, fruits and seeds.

Several keen attendees expanded their knowledge further by learning the next stage of the process and helped to clean some native seed in February 2023. The session resulted in several new volunteers for the Weddin Community Native Nursery.



Clean Up Australia Day

A small team of volunteers helped to clean up The Company Dam as part of our Clean Up Australia Day Event in early March 2023. Four big bags of loose rubbish and a few larger items were collected just from around the shoreline.



Henry Lawson Festival

Weddin Landcare entered a 'carbon-negative' entry in the street procession for the Henry Lawson Festival. It was very well received and won first prize (\$300). A great vibe was felt as we walked down the street. Trees were given away as part of the procession.



Regional network meetings

In February, Clemence and Melanie attended the Central West Region Landcare community of practice event at Dubbo. The two-day event allowed us to participate in training and workshops, meet and catch up with Landcare Coordinators and Committee members from around the region along with key representatives from Landcare NSW and other NRM organisations operating in the Central West. We also met with Hon. Dugald Saunders to promote Landcare NSW's bid for further funding.



School Education

Birds, Bats and Bugs Program

The Birds, Bats and Bugs school program continued in late 2022 and early 2023, with two lots of funding received through Central West Local Land Services. Sessions held this year have included:

- Monitoring (Melanie Cooper) - Caragabal Public School and Greenethorpe Public School
- Birds (Jayden Gunn) – Greenethorpe Public School, St. Joseph’s Primary School, Quandialla Public School and The Henry Lawson High School
- Microbats (Mikla Lewis) – Quandialla Public School, Weddin Mobile Preschool, Caragabal Public School and 2 x Grenfell Public School.
- Native Pollinators (Melanie Cooper) – Caragabal Public School x 2, Grenfell Public School x 4, Greenethorpe Public School x 2, St. Joseph’s Primary School x 2, Weddin Mobile Preschool x 2.



Melanie also held a Soils in the Sandpit session with Greenethorpe Public School and spoke to Yr 11/12 Geography at The Henry Lawson High School about Ecosystems at risk and the Weddin Mountains.

Melanie also spent a great couple of days spent in the great outdoors last week with the teachers and students from Caragabal Public School and Quandialla Public School at Weddin Mountains National Park to extend their learnings in nature.

Country Education Foundation

Weddin Landcare again donated \$2,000 to the Country Education Foundation this year to sponsor students studying Environmental Science or Agriculture.



Communications

Newsletter

Melanie and Claire produce a monthly newsletter which goes out via email, facebook and twitter. We have had a lot of positive feedback about it. The newsletter goes out via email, facebook and twitter. We now have 269 subscribers to the newsletter, which is 45 more than last year.

Website

This year Weddin Landcare built a new website - weddinlandcare.com.au - which is a great improvement on the old one with updated information, graphics and greater opportunity to interact and stay current.

Social Media

Regular posts go up on Facebook and Twitter. This year, an Instagram account was also created for Weddin Landcare. We have had 143 more followers for our Facebook page in the past year, which is currently at 621.

Newspaper

Only a few articles have been submitted to the Grenfell Record as social media and electronic formats along with RMB mailouts have been effective in advertising our activities and events.

Radio

Only one interview was conducted with ABC Central West radio.

Print media

Several flyers advertising upcoming events were sent to all rural mailboxes in the shire this year.

Administration

- Clemence and Melanie submitted the EOFY reporting for Weddin Landcare for the Landcare Coordinator funding to Landcare NSW/LLS
- Case studies were prepared for Landcare NSW
- Our Local Priority Plan for 2022-2023 was submitted in August 2022.
- Timesheets and the Coordinator Activity Tracker are up to date.
- BAS and financial reporting has been completed by Balance Accountants. The financial statements for Weddin Landcare for 2022-2023 are available as a separate document

Training and Development

Over the past year, Melanie utilised the personal development bursary offered by Landcare NSW to complete First Aid Training as well as a 3.5 day masterclass workshop with Nicole Masters and Graham Rees in Orange



This report was prepared by Melanie Cooper, with input from Clemence Matchett and Jan Diprose.

Contact

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