

Prepared By

MELANIE COOPER AND CLAIRE DIPROSE



ANNUAL REPORT

— 2023 TO 2024

FROM OUR CHAIR

Output from our coordinators has been extraordinary this year with the increased coordinator hours to one full-time equivalent since February. It is satisfying to work alongside Melanie and Claire who each bring their own set of skills to the table. I continue to be in awe of their capacity to deliver programmes that respond to local needs.

The Weddin Community Native Nursery has been an integral part of our operations. With Jan Diprose at the helm, it gives me enormous confidence in its future. The energy of volunteers both at the nursery and at any field days and workshops is positively contagious.

Succession planning is always on the table. We need to recruit new people to enhance the fine work of Weddin Landcare. If you see there is someone out there who could bring skills and vitality to the group, please offer the suggestion to one of the committee or coordinators.

As society changes, there is more corporate agriculture resulting in less people in rural areas like ours. With less doing something for the greater good, we are finding ourselves doing more. We need to fight the good fight and draw more into the ring to add further vitality of like-minded souls. I propose that now we are a registered charity, we attempt to do that for sustainability into the future.

I wish to thank the committee for working together to make the Weddin region a better place. We have a presence in the community and are a respected organisation in the town and environs. It remains a pleasure to work with you and share in the positive outcomes for the community.

Recognition must be made of the Weddin Landcare executive. James Maslin, Geoff Draffin and Phillip Diprose. These people provide a considered perspective and are willing to stump up when required. Phillip, particularly has been a driver with the new Landcare Enabling Program, installing policy and procedures for us to move forward with receiving funding for our organisation.

To avoid burnout, we need to remind ourselves of our commitment to the natural landscape, our successes so far, and the challenges and goals with the way forward to make this a better place than the one we inherited. To hand on to our children and grandchildren as future custodians of the landscape.

Clemence Matchett
Chair

WEDDIN LANDCARE STEERING COMMITTEE

Position	Elected Member
Chairperson	Clemence Matchett
Vice Chairperson	James Maslin
Secretary	Geoff Draffin
Treasurer	Phillip Diprose
Public Officer	Phillip Diprose
Weddin Community Native Nursery Delegate	Jan Diprose
Weeds Committee Delegate	TBA
Weddin Shire Council Delegate	TBA
Ordinary Members	Penny Edgerton, Anita Edwards, Pat Verney, Mikla Lewis, Stephen Pereira, Keith Starr, Vincent Nowlan, Jason Livissianos, Penny Edgerton, Linda Maslin, John Johnson, Megan Starr, Anthony Myers, Belinda Power, Amber Atkins, Bill White, Liam Fletcher, Margaret Nowlan-Jones, John Nowlan and Andrew Metcalf.

MEMBERSHIP

Weddin Landcare has 294 subscribers, 16 more than last year. There are currently 25 Steering Committee Members.

EMPLOYEES

Melanie Cooper and Claire Diprose now share one FTE Landcare Coordinator position as of February 2024. Melanie takes on the Senior Landcare Coordinator role with extra reporting, policy, and mentoring responsibilities. They generally work Tuesday - Thursday from 9am to 3 pm.



SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS



Grant funding received

\$135,537.40



Contribution to local economy

\$142,367.62



Trees planted

2,800



Land protected or rehabilitated

31Ha



Events held

34



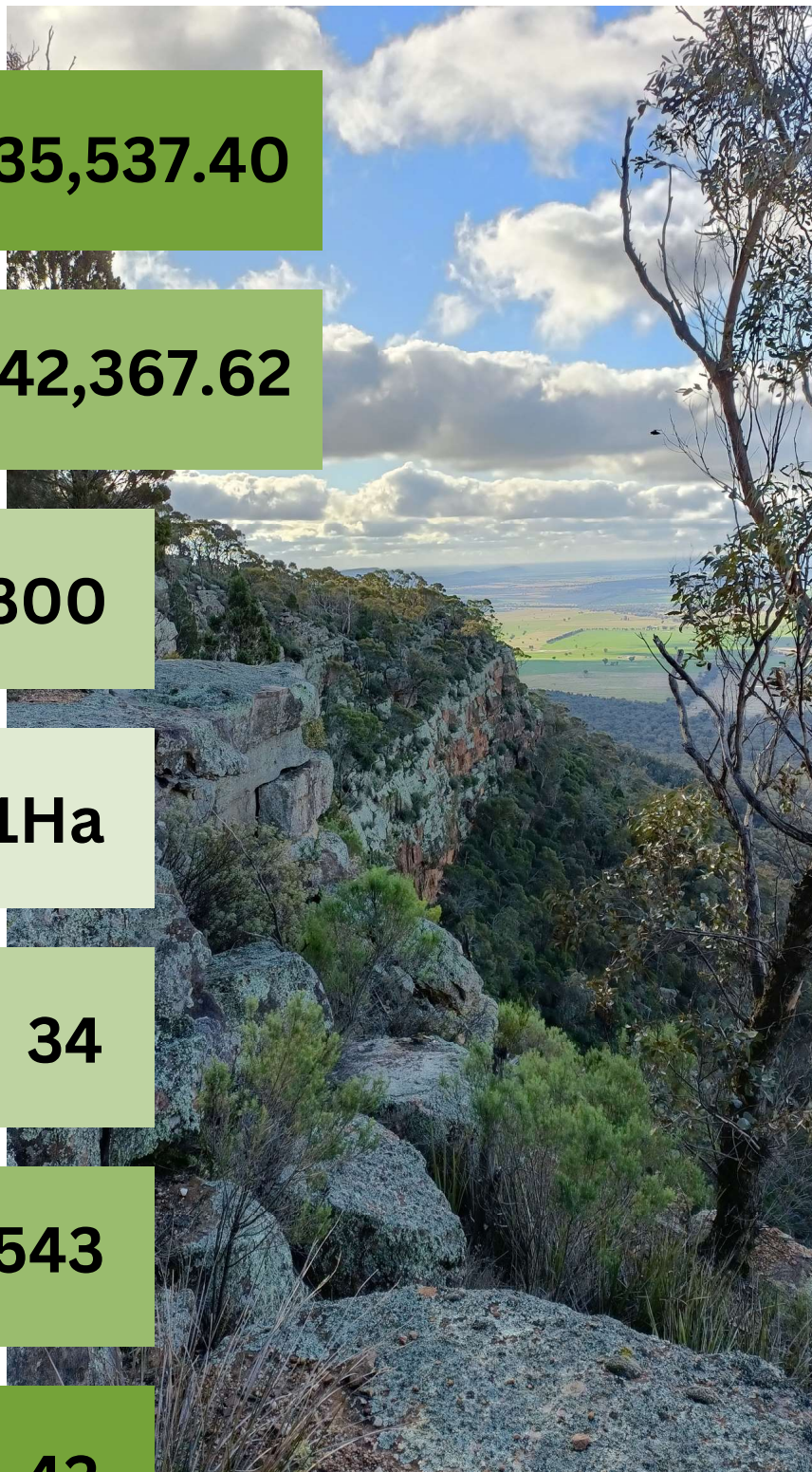
People educated

543



Partnerships

42



PROJECTS

KEEPING CATS SAFE AT HOME (KCSAH)

The KCSAH program has had continued success with another year of funding granted by RSPCA NSW with assistance from the NSW Government's Environmental Trust.

Over 300 cats have been desexed to date through the program. Thirty community members also received a cat enclosure for their property through our incentive program with Weddin Shire Council.



We teamed up with RSPCA NSW and Weddin Shire Council to deliver an educational presentation to over 100 students across four local primary schools.

RSPCA NSW also held a stall at the Henry Lawson Festival and we continued to share social media campaigns.

The program has resulted in a 75% decrease in cat nuisance complaints.



VAUGHN'S DAM RESERVE

Sally Borne completed a Masterplan in November 2023 to help secure future funding for the reserve. Since then, small works have been completed by JG Arbor to remove woody weeds, and working bees were held in May and June 2024 to continue cleaning up the reserve.

THREATENED SPECIES CALENDAR

A calendar was made from the winners of the Wild at Art project. Over 100 children in the Weddin district received a calendar. Each month shows an artwork, photo, and description of a local threatened species.



PROJECTS

OOMA CREEK TRIBUTARY RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Completed in September 2023, this project saw a total of 3.8km of fencing erected, 2700 trees planted and 2 leaky weirs constructed to improve approximately 28.5Ha of riparian land across three properties in the Ooma catchment.



PIG TRAPS

Two new pig traps were purchased for landholder use. With pig numbers on the rise, almost all of our traps are being utilised.

SALINITY MONITORING

We have begun working with the Department of Climate Change Energy Environment and Water to monitor creek systems across the Bland and Tyagong catchment areas to contribute to the Catchment Salinity Risk Profiling Project. Melanie and Claire attended a workshop in June to meet the other project participants.



WEDDIN COMMUNITY NATIVE NURSERY

The Weddin Community Native Nursery has again had a very busy and successful year.

The hard work, dedication and passion of our executive, staff and volunteers are the reason for our continued success; as are the large orders from our regular customers, which include Central West Local Land Services, several Shires and Landcare organisations, and local landholders.

We have had strong community involvement working with Weddin Landcare to run workshops, enter in the Henry Lawson Festival Street parade and NAIDOC celebrations. Given presentations to Garden Clubs, entered the Open Gardens weekend and hosted a “Biggest Morning Tea” for the Grenfell Garden Club.

The nursery celebrated many special days. We had a wonderful National Threatened Species Day celebration focusing on birds – Presentations were given by Trevor Bullock, a bird photographer, and Chris and Camilla from Egpicnic on their Bird Art projects. National Eucalypt Day and National School and Tree Day were also recognised with tree give aways to the local community and schools.

Jan Diprose Chair





GRANT SIMS REGENERATIVE FARMING WORKSHOP

We held a very successful field day with Grant Sims in August 2023 with over 60 farmers attending to learn how Grant manages his soil, plant and animal health. The day included a soil pit inspection on Martin and Megan Starr's property.



REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES

As part of the Ooma Riparian Restoration project we conducted a revegetation techniques and tree planting day with 17 people attending. We planted around 1,000 trees and had demonstrations on different planting methods, including the direct seeder with Local Land Services.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

WATTLE DAY WALK

We held another successful Wattle Day event on 1 September, with over 20 people attending. Mikla and Wayne did a wonderful job showing us the wattles on their property. The Grenfell Record followed up the event with an article, providing broader education.



GRAZING GROUP

Members of the Grenfell Grazing Group attended the Low Stress Stock Handling day in September 2023 and a Winter Keeping in Touch day was facilitated by Michael Gooden from RCS at Kylie Matthews' property at Wirriya in June 2024.





TRIP TO LAKE COWAL

As an end of year activity, volunteers from Weddin Landcare Steering Committee and Weddin Community Native Nursery took a trip to Lake Cowal to see the new site for the Lake Cowal Conservation Centre and eco-tourism campground.



WILDFLOWERS AND WATERBIRDS

On 10 November 2023 we took community members on a walk to see the Flannel Flowers at Conimbla National Park. Following this, we attended the Waterbird Breeding Spectacular and Archibird exhibitions at Cowra Japanese Gardens.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

WREATH WORKSHOP



In November, we organised a wreath-making workshop in collaboration with Paper Daisy Studio at the Nursery. Twelve participants joined in and were able to bring home a stunning Christmas wreath crafted from native flowers.



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

We had 16 participant come along and collect a ute load of rubbish at The Company Dam in March 2024. A whole range of items were collected including a bike, vapes, car batteries, beer bottles and cans and a lot of single-use plastics.





MITIGATING NATURAL RISKS

Nine participants joined us to hear from David Brown about mitigating business risk and hear from SES on how to protect their property from floods. Local Land Services followed the session with Alison Elvin presenting on Riparian Restoration. This workshop was funded by Landcare NSW's People Led Prevention Project.



FUNGI FORAY

We sold out the fungi event in May before it was advertised. Alison Pouliot was an amazing presenter and provided a wealth of information on our local fungi. The day included a field walk at Vaughn's Dam Reserve. This event was part of a series of events funded by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust that were held across the region.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

REDUCING HOUSEHOLD WASTE

In March, 9 people attended a Reducing Household Waste Workshop at Weddin Community Native Nursery. Participants learnt how to reduce waste in the home, recycle better and were shown how to make compost.



DESIGN TO BEAT THE ELEMENTS

In March, 130 participants heard from Graham Ross, from Better Homes and Gardens, Sally Sutherland from Source Architects, and the SES and RFS on ways to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on our property. This workshop was funded by Landcare NSW's People Led Prevention Project.



SCHOOL EDUCATION



COMPOST WORKSHOP WITH HENRY LAWSON HIGHSCHOOL

The year 7 and 8 STEM classes at Henry Lawson High School participated in a workshop to learn about composting and were shown how to set up a compost bin. Weddin Landcare donated a tumbler bin for their community garden.

BUSH TUCKER AT QUANDI

As part of the Landcare NSW Aboriginal Engagement program, we used funding to revive the Bush Tucker garden at Quandialla Public School.



RIPARIAN WORKSHOP WITH CARAGABAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Weddin Landcare partnered with Central West Local Land Services to deliver a catchment and riparian restoration workshop to students of Caragabal Public School in June 2024.



WILD AT ART

With the help of Kathleen McCue, Weddin Landcare worked with all 5 primary schools in the Shire in August. 100 students learned about local threatened species and then created artworks. The artworks were submitted to the Australian Conservation Foundation's Wild At Art competition and a local competition was held as part of National Threatened Species Day.



COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNICATIONS

Our newsletter continues to go out on a monthly basis and is always packed with information on our projects, events and activities as well as other opportunities and awareness-raising articles such as the Weddin Wonder.

The website is regularly updated with our events, projects and news. At least three posts go out each week across Facebook and Instagram.

We have regular articles featuring in the Grenfell Record and reach out to radio to advertise our events. Flyers are regularly distributed around town and to rural mailboxes to inform the community of upcoming opportunities and events.

ADMINISTRATION

The Executive and Coordinators worked hard to secure funding for a full-time Local Landcare Coordinator position for our district for 2023-2027 through the Landcare Enabling Program.

Weddin Landcare is now a registered charity through the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit commission and has achieved Deductible Gift Recipient status.

Final reporting was completed the the 2019-2023 Landcare NSW Program, Riparian Restoration project and People Led Prevention Project. Progress reporting was completed for the Landcare Enabling Program for 2023-2024.

Eight funding submissions were submitted to help support local Landcare activities.

The Coordinators and several members of the Steering Committee attended regional meetings held by Central West Region Landcare to discuss joint initiatives, partnership opportunities and Landcare Program funding.



Weddin Landcare is now a registered charity. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

**Donate online today
weddinlandcare.com.au/donate**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Weddin Landcare would like to acknowledge all of our wonderful volunteers, committee members, project partners, guest speakers, school communities, neighbours, event participants and donors.

Special mention goes to the following organisations and individuals who regularly assisted in 2023-2024:

- Our executive; Clemence Matchett, Phillip Diprose, Geoff Draffin, James Maslin, Jan Diprose, Keith Starr and John Johnson.
- Central West Local Land Services
- Weddin Community Native Nursery
- Central West Lachlan Landcare
- Mid-Lachlan Landcare
- Central West Region Landcare
- Landcare NSW
- Mikla Lewis
- Jenn Graham
- NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust
- Weddin Shire Council



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

CONTACT

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