



Weddin
Landcare

2024 - 2025

Annual Report



Prepared by:

Melanie Cooper and Claire Diprose



David Armstrong

FROM OUR CHAIR

The Landcare Enabling Program (LEP) is in its second year of a four-year implementation, emphasising Weddin Landcare's commitment to deliver outcomes and fulfill employer responsibilities.

Over the past year, the group has strengthened ties with local landholders and partners through strategic workshops and outreach, fostering environmental stewardship. Regular communication ensured volunteer and stakeholder input in decision-making, leading to productive outcomes and new partnerships. The dedication of volunteers and community support has been crucial for local initiatives and best-practice stewardship, nurturing both the land and its caretakers.

The dedication of executives James Maslin, Phillip Diprose and Geoff Draffin needs to be recognised. To the nursery volunteers and employees, a big thank you for placing the Weddin Community Native Nursery on the map and for forging ahead with the business. Working with Claire Diprose and Melanie Cooper has yielded remarkable results in 2024/25, showcasing the value of teamwork.

The collective resilience of Weddin Landcare has propelled the organisation forward, despite challenges, driven by a clear purpose: to care for the land and those who depend on it. This sense of purpose is what sustains momentum and inspires ongoing participation, ensuring that Weddin Landcare remains a dynamic force for positive change in the region

Future plans focus on building capacity, nurturing partnerships, and launching educational initiatives to inspire new Landcare advocates. Emphasis will also be on securing long-term funding and advocacy for vital environmental projects.

Weddin Landcare aims to celebrate its achievements and recognise those shaping a sustainable future, positioning itself to tackle evolving challenges in land stewardship and community resilience.

Clemence Matchett
Chair
Weddin Landcare Steering Committee Inc.



Photo: Colleen Gorman

WEDDIN LANDCARE STEERING COMMITTEE

Position	Elected Member
Chairperson	Clemence Matchett
Vice Chairperson	James Maslin
Secretary	Geoff Draffin
Treasurer	Phillip Diprose
Assistant Treasurer	TBA
Public Officer	Phillip Diprose
Weddin Community Native Nursery Delegate	Jan Diprose
Weeds Committee Delegate	TBA
Weddin Shire Council Delegate	John Niven
Ordinary Members	Penny Edgerton, Anita Edwards, Pat Verney, Mikla Lewis, Stephen Pereira, Vincent Nowlan, Linda Maslin, John Johnson, Anthony Myers, Bill White, Margaret Nowlan-Jones and John Jones.

MEMBERSHIP

Weddin Landcare has 344 subscribers, 50 more than last year. There are currently 18 Steering Committee Members.

EMPLOYEES

Melanie Cooper and Claire Diprose job-share one full-time Landcare Coordinator position. Melanie takes on the Senior Landcare Coordinator role with extra reporting, policy, and mentoring responsibilities.

They generally work Tuesday - Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm.



Photo: Jason Livissianos

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS



Grants funding and
donations received

\$198,299



Contribution to
local economy

\$129,841



Trees planted

3,180



Land protected
or rehabilitated

9Ha



Events held

26



People educated

396



Partnerships

48

Jenn Graham

PROJECTS

Weddin Landcare participated in nine local projects during 2024-2025. These initiatives fostered new engagement in both urban and rural areas, involving the community, parents and friends of schools, farmers, and landholders in events and on-ground works.

Grenfell Community Produce

Melanie helped St Joseph's Primary School secure \$9,000 from the Western NSW Health Building Healthy Communities program for a community garden. This initiative grew to include various local organisations such as Grenfell Preschool, Grenfell MPS, Grenfell Food Hall, and Henry Lawson High School. Ongoing project support is given to coordinating working bees, workshops, reporting, attending meetings and providing ideas and input.



Photo: Stephen Cooper



Photo: Mikla Lewis

Weddin Wattle Trails and Field Guide

Claire, Mikla Lewis and other volunteers developed some *Self-drive Wattle Trails* for the Weddin Mountains Region along with a Field Guide called *Weddin Wattles – A Local Guide*. This involved locating the wattle species within the Weddin Shire then collating the information and designing the book. Melanie edited the book and applied for grants for printing. The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) funded the printing and launch event.

Small Environmental Grants

Eight local sites were selected to establish native vegetation to reduce the impact of natural hazards. Trees and guards for the project were provided by the Weddin Community Native Nursery.

All up, 3,180 trees will be planted as part of this project across 9 Ha with the Green Team from Henry Lawson High School assisting with tree planting.



Photo: Jenny Armstrong

Keeping Cats Safe at Home

The 4-year Keeping Cats Safe at Home project wound up in November 2024. With support from the NSW Government's Environmental Trust, this partnership between RSPCA NSW, Weddin Shire Council and Weddin Landcare achieved significant results:

- 335 cats were desexed and microchipped, reducing free-roaming, unowned cats.
- Provided education and support to cat owners, including 30 cat enclosures.
- Achieved up to a 75% reduction in cat-related complaints and decreased pound intake.
- Increased community awareness, with over 100 students participating in educational programs.

Weddin Landcare shared project outcomes at a Goal to Zero webinar and assisted RSPCA NSW in seeking further funding to continue the initiative.

[Click here to download a copy of the Impact Report prepared by RSPCA NSW](#)



Photo: Melanie Cooper

Salinity Monitoring

Salinity Monitoring continues in the Bland and Tyagong catchment areas, contributing to the Catchment Salinity Risk Profiling project being run with the Department of Climate Change Energy Environment and Water (DCCEEW). In February 2025 Andrew Wooldridge assisted with a salinity field day. Additional funding has been secured to extend the project into 2025-2026.

Over the Fence

The Over the Fence project, funded by the Australian Government's Climate Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust, focuses on fostering conversations between farmers to inspire innovative practices. A 'Strip and Disc Cropping Systems' event was held in April 2025, and visual stories featuring six progressive local farmers are being filmed by Stuart Walmsley. More field days and bus trips are in the pipeline for this project.



Photo: Melanie Cooper

EVENTS

Weddin Landcare organised and ran 26 events in 2024 - 2025 for a broad cross-section of the community from farmers to school students, nature enthusiasts to MPS residents. Some of these events are outlined below. We also participated in the Birding NSW Spring and Autumn Key Biodiversity Area Surveys and Grenfell NAIDOC event for 2024.

Improving Biodiversity on farms

Josh Frappell from The Regenerative delivered a field day on 'Improving Biodiversity on farms' on 10 September 2024 at 'Myall Park' Caragabal. This was part of a series of workshops in the Central West funded by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT). Sharon Cunial from the BCT spoke about private land conservation before the twelve participants visited several sites to see how the Coopers are improving biodiversity on their farm.



Photo: Mikla Lewis



Photo: Melanie Cooper

Seedy Encounters

On Thursday 17 October 2024 we held a seed collecting workshop with the Australian Botanic Gardens. This was part of the Central West Region workshop series funded by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and looked at seed collection strategies and preservation techniques. The workshop was followed by a trip up to the Grenfell Endemic Garden.

Halloween Spectacular

As part of a two day 'Halloween special' Claire and Melanie organised for Jayden Gunn to present a 'Creatures of the Night' event on Phillip and Jan Diprose's property. Jayden gave a short talk before we went out spotlighting for some night-time animals. The following day Claire and Melanie held a 'Wicked Wildflower Walk' at Monteagle Cemetery with Mikla Lewis, which was well attended.

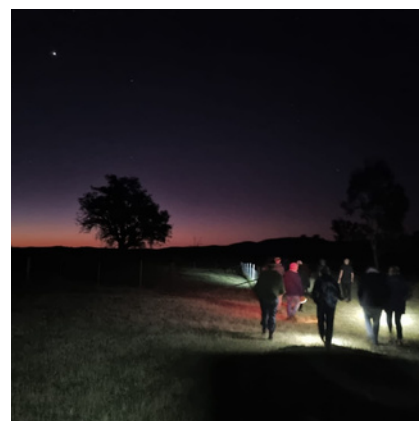


Photo: Melanie Cooper

Fencing for Purpose

Angus Arnott from Waratah Fencing assisted us with a 'Fencing for Purpose' field day on 27 March 2025. Twelve people attended. Angus provided information on the different styles of fencing for different purposes as well as training on the basics of fencing plus some tips and tricks. We've heard that participants have already put their new skills to the test!



Photo: Melanie Cooper



Photo: Melanie Cooper

Mycology in the Mix and Funga Obscura Book Launch

Claire and Melanie hosted renowned ecologist and environmental photographer Alison Pouliot, firstly for a book launch of her latest book *Funga Obscura* then for a Mycology in the Mix workshop event. We had around ten people at the book launch and thirty people at the Mycology in the Mix Workshop held in the Matchett's historic woolshed.

Nature Writing Workshop

Former local and nationally acclaimed author, Inga Simpson delivered a Nature Writing workshop for us on Thursday 5 June, in the lead up to the Henry Lawson Festival. We had nine attendees, who participated in the writing exercises run by Inga, gained insight into publishing and learnt some helpful hints.



Photo: Melanie Cooper



Photo: Jenn Graham

Henry Lawson Festival

Together with the Weddin Community Native Nursery we entered a float in the Henry Lawson Festival Parade on 8 June 2025 to celebrate Wattles and won second prize!

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Weddin Landcare actively collaborated with local schools on several occasions from running workshops to customising units of work in the school curriculum. Engaging with schools promotes environmental awareness, nurtures practical skills, strengthens community ties and fosters our future Landcarers.

Sustainable Farming with Small Schools

Melanie assisted the principal at Caragabal Public School to customise the units of work for the Sustainable Management of Natural and Cultural Environments + Food and Fibre for years 3-6. Together, they have made the unit much more relevant to broadacre farming in the Central West region. Melanie also assisted with an excursion as part of the unit.



Photo: Marie Harris



Photo: Claire Diprose

Compost and seedling workshops

Melanie and Claire ran a composting and seedling propagation workshop with St Joseph's Primary School and Grenfell Pre-school and Long Daycare Centre as part of the Grenfell Community Produce Project. The workshop will support the school to divert green waste from landfill and propagate their own seedlings in a greenhouse to replenish their garden beds with the changing seasons. We also extended these workshops to the Grenfell MPS.

Water quality with Caragabal Public School

Melanie presented to the students on water quality and how we can determine if our waterways and water bodies are healthy. The students undertook practical Waterwatch activities including testing of water quality parameters including temperature, pH, turbidity and electrical conductivity. They also searched for waterbugs and were fascinated to take a closer look at some samples under the microscope.



Photo: Marie Harris

WEDDIN COMMUNITY NATIVE NURSERY

The Weddin Community Native Nursery continues to grow and supply native plants to many landholders, both in the Weddin Shire and further afield.

Our dedicated group of volunteers have collected, cleaned and sown seed and then pricked out and maintained over 10,000 tube stock to meet orders from customers. These customers have included Central West Local Land Services, Landcare groups, Shires and landholders from Dubbo, Nyngan, Parkes, Forbes, Condobolin, Young, Mullion Creek and Grenfell.

The Nursery has been highlighted through talks and presentations to various Garden Clubs and schools. We have also run grafting workshops and been involved in community activities, such as the Grenfell Community Produce project, NAIDOC Day, the Henry Lawson Festival and the MPS Christmas markets. Our website and regular posts on our facebook page also raise the profile of the Nursery.

We continue to celebrate important National Days. Peter Olde OAM, co-author of *The Grevillea Book*, gave a wonderful talk on rare and new grevillea finds for our celebration of National Threatened Species Day. We had a Eucalyptus Oil Distillation Demonstration on National Eucalypt Day. National Tree Day was also celebrated with trees given to the local schools and community groups. We also co-hosted a “Biggest Morning Tea” with the Grenfell Garden Club raising funds for Can Assist.

Our front garden at the Nursery was dedicated to our Patron, Noel Cartwright, recognising his invaluable knowledge of our local plants and his continual involvement at the Nursery. Noel designed the garden, propagated many of the plants and helped in its construction along side our volunteers. Noel has also completed an amazing artwork showcasing our native flora which is now on display at the Nursery. Through Noel’s propagation of “Sharon’s Gold” we have donated \$1,000 to Can Assist over the last year.

We look forward to continued success over the next twelve months with having an increase in volunteer numbers and orders for Autumn 2026 underway.

Jan Diprose
Chairperson
Weddin Community Native Nursery



Photo: Claire Diprose

COMMUNICATIONS

Regular communications from Weddin Landcare this year included:

- A monthly e-newsletter sent to 344 subscribers
- Website updates and posts on weddinlandcare.com.au
- Social media posts on Facebook and Instagram
- Media releases to local newspapers and radio stations
- Flyers for events and opportunities distributed to local businesses, community boards and via Australia Post; and
- Videos for key projects.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2024-2025 Weddin Landcare Coordinators and Executive members participated in several training sessions to improve their knowledge and skills:

- A Masterclass with Joel Williams as part of the Vic No-till conference in Wagga on 5 September 2024.
- Landcare Governance workshop on 11 February 2024
- Transformative Project Management webinar with Jessica Leck on 6 May 2024.
- Grant Writing workshop with Jessica Leck on 30 June 2024.



Photo: Courtesy Central West Lachlan Landcare

ADMINISTRATION

Weddin Landcare successfully completed their annual reporting requirements for the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission and the Landcare Enabling Program. General meetings are held once a quarter, along with an AGM.

Nine funding submissions were prepared to attract funding for projects, with another six partnership project applications supported.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 2024-2025:

- Our executive: Clemence Matchett, Phillip Diprose, Geoff Draffin, James Maslin and Jan Diprose.
- Weddin Community Native Nursery
- Central West Local Land Services
- Central West Region Landcare
- Central West Lachlan Landcare
- Mid-Lachlan Landcare
- Landcare NSW
- NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust
- DCCEE Andrew Wooldridge
- Mikla Lewis
- Jenn Graham
- Natalie Caruana
- St. Joseph's Primary School
- Merle Bryer
- Weddin Shire Council
- Grenfell Visitor Information Centre staff
- Bound Pages Bookshop
- Unwind in Grenfell
- Vic No-till Farmers Association
- Resource Consulting Services
- Scott Hickman



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

Weddin Landcare Steering Committee



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