



2018 WALN Members and Stakeholders Forum Cockburn Wetlands Centre 20 July 2018



WA Landcare Network
PO Box 48, Dandaragan WA 6507
P 0429 409 231
E enquiries@landcarewa.org.au

www.landcarewa.org.au
[Facebook.com/Landcarewa](https://www.facebook.com/Landcarewa)
[Twitter.com/Landcarewa](https://twitter.com/Landcarewa)

ABN 84 782 588 107



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2018 WALN AGM and Network Gathering Perup: Nature's Guesthouse 15-16 November 2018



The WA Landcare Network acknowledges indigenous Australians as the first landcarers of this country and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. WALN is keen to engage, partner and share knowledge with our indigenous custodians to jointly care for country.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

The 2018-19 year has seen the WA Landcare Network continue to grow in size and influence. We also continue to see encouraging signs that community based landcare is having a resurgence in Western Australia, even though these remain difficult times.



Our membership is increasing by around 25% per year, and had grown to 108 active groups by the end of the 2018-19 financial year. We are proud to represent and support you all.

Providing effective representation remains difficult however. Governments are increasingly shifting their focus from providing funding to support local groups as they deal with local issues, to the current practice of effectively purchasing services, and paying little heed to the real costs of providing these. Many groups are struggling to meet their core costs, or to have confidence in their future given the 'stop-start' nature of the various funding schemes they rely on.

Our Forum at the Cockburn Wetland Centre in July 2018 heard some inspiring examples of local groups who have diversified into 'social enterprise' small businesses, as one strategy to keep operating. While this was heartening, we also heard of the extreme stress many coordinators work under, and the way they feel marginalised by current government funding arrangements. Fortunately for most, the State NRM program continues to have a focus on maintaining local efforts, and we thank them sincerely for that.

However, the continued withdrawal of State Government funding and agency staff from what we see as core roles for them is hampering effective management of natural resources in WA, and placing an unfair work burden on local groups. In recent years we have seen three WA Auditor reports that can only be described as highly critical of the state's lack of performance in land management, with the most recent being the report into Management of Salinity handed down in May 2018. We attended the only workshop called by government to discuss their response to that report by the Auditor, and one of our last acts in this financial year was to provide comment on the response commissioned by government from GHD consultants. We are unaware of any positive actions yet to result from that.

WALN continues to represent WA in national meetings, important in making sure your needs and issues are included in various representations to Ministers and departments. We thank the staff at the National Landcare Network for their support. Work continues to achieve one clear voice for landcare nationally, and for the voice to directly represent landcare groups, but the negotiations with Landcare Australia Limited have been very time-consuming and seem to have some distance to travel yet.

A personal highlight for me as Chair of WALN, and Deputy Chair of the National Landcare Network, was to represent landcare at the memorial service for Bob Hawke in June 2019. It was a very emotional and inspiring event in the Sydney Opera House, which brought back many memories of the decisive leadership shown in establishment of the National Landcare Program and the appropriately ambitious Billion Trees program in 1989. Vale Bob Hawke, he is missed.

A big step forward for WALN was winning the right to run the 2019 WA State NRM and Coastal Conference, our opportunity to inject some of landcare's warmth, creativity and inclusiveness into this major event. It is a big step for us, and is consuming much of our staff time.

I'd like to thank the WALN Committee for their efforts during the year – Helen Watkins, Jo Ludbrook, John Holley, Julian Sharp and Mick Davis. I appreciate the extra support Mick has provided as Deputy Chair, and the many hours Helen puts in as Treasurer. We congratulate Helen on her election as Chair of the National Landcare Network's Members Council, and for the many extra hours of work that entails.

During the year Louise Duxbury and Blair Darvill shared the various Executive Officer roles, with their workload ballooning as preparations are made for the conference, while Caroline Hughes continued to do an amazing job as our Communications Officer. Caroline, Louise and Blair work as part-time contractors to WALN, an arrangement which gives us good service and also helps them support their other roles in landcare.

The biggest thanks are reserved for you – the landcarers who continue to not only show this country how local communities work together effectively, but who also continue to demonstrate the cost-efficiency, good heart and good humour that typifies landcare.

Let's hope the next few years we see changes that make your work easier.



Keith Bradby OAM
Chairperson, WA Landcare Network



WHO IS THE WA LANDCARE NETWORK?

'A collective independent voice for WA landcare

The WA Landcare Network (WALN) is the peak state landcare body established to represent and support the network of diverse community organisations working together to address Western Australia's most challenging environmental problems.

To support and foster effective landcare in Western Australia WALN:

- ❖ acknowledges indigenous Australians as the first landcarers of our country and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community. WALN welcomes indigenous custodians into the landcare community and wishes to engage, partner and share knowledge to jointly care for country.
- ❖ recognises and values the landcare community as the grassroots carers for the WA environment and our State's future. The WALN network is open to all organisations with an interest in landcare. WALN is effectively owned by grassroots landcarers. WALN not only connects landcare groups of all shapes and sizes, it provides landcare information and resources, and represents landcare across the State.
- ❖ strives to be a collective independent voice for landcare and advocates on behalf of the landcare community at a State and Federal level based on a real-time understanding of what's happening on the ground. WALN hopes through strong advocacy on behalf of grassroots landcare we can build better support and capability for landcare in WA.
- ❖ aims to build a landcare network that supports and strengthens the capability of landcare groups and individuals and enables them to get the landcare job done. WALN aims to assist landcarers to undertake their work and build strong state, national public and private support and involvement. WALN believes through increased support, coordination and capacity the landcare community can collectively achieve better environmental outcomes for WA.

Vision

A supported network of diverse community organisations working together to address Western Australia's most challenging environmental problems and building communities able to respond positively to changes; resulting in a natural environment with fully functional ecosystems, a sustainable and productive agricultural system; and healthy, happy and resilient communities.

Mission

To establish an operating and useful landcare network in Western Australia that supports and strengthens the ability of member groups to undertake their work and have strong state, national public and private support and involvement.

'Growing and supporting community landcare'

2018-19 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Established in 2014 the WA Landcare Network has recently completed its 5th year.

WALN is proud to report on the following key achievements against its 4 organisational objectives during the 2018-19 financial year:

1. Advocate for and Represent the WA Landcare Movement

- ❖ Continued to represent WA on the National Landcare Network Member Council and Board, providing input and advocating for improved federal funding and support for community landcare.
- ❖ Provided considerable input to the proposed merger between Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network to ensure WA interests were adequately represented.
- ❖ Prepared a Landcare Policy Statement in collaboration with other States and Territories and promoted it across the WA Landcare Network ahead of the 2019 Federal Election. 'Landcare Communities Australia's Future – A policy roadmap for landcare in Australia' and Background Paper seek an ongoing commitment to the community Landcare movement, providing reliable funding that supports a foundation of local action undertaken with regional, state and national support.
- ❖ Collaborated with States and Territories to commission an independent literature review for landcare in Australia. The resulting 'The Value Proposition for Community Landcare: A Literature Review' reviews the large and diverse body of literature which has examined Landcare since its inception.
- ❖ Invited WALN members to review the State Government's publication entitled 'Western Australian Natural Resource Management Framework 2018' and shared collective comment at a meeting with Hon. Allannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food.
- ❖ Provided significant input to the WA State Government's review on salinity management following the WA Auditor General Report identified a lack of action on salinity in south-western Australia. WALN encouraged its members and broader landcare community to provide comment on the consultative review 'A New Direction in Salinity Management' prepared by GHD Consultants and prepared a detailed submission.
- ❖ Participated in round table discussions on drought resilience coordinated by Major General Day looking at the potential strategies to address drought resilience into the future.
- ❖ Fostered the establishment of a WA Landcare/Coastcare/NRM Stakeholder Group to increase cohesion and collaboration across the landcare sector. The Group came together to formulate common messages and approaches to facilitate a collective conversation with the State Government about how Landcare/Coastcare/NRM can be achieved most effectively in WA.



2. Network, Consult and Communicate with Members and the Broader Landcare Movement

- ❖ Increased WALN membership by 43% (75 to 107 members during the financial year) increasing WALN's reach in the landcare community.
 - ❖ Conducted a WALN Members and Stakeholders Network Forum at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre on Friday 20 July 2018 attracting close to ninety WA landcarers for high calibre, informative and engaging presentations and network opportunities. Forum presentations were made available to those who could attend on video.
 - ❖ Represented WA landcare at the 2018 National Landcare Conference in Brisbane from 10-12 October 2019. WALN Committee Members and staff learnt, contribute and networked amongst landcarers from around the country combining the trip east with important National Landcare Network Board and Members Council Meetings.
 - ❖ Conducted the 2018 WALN Annual General Meeting and Networking Gathering at Perup: Nature's Guesthouse from 15 to 16 November 2018 attracting 33 member groups primarily from the south west and south coast regions but also some from as far away as Perth and the Northern Agricultural region. To complement the AGM formalities, participants enjoyed nature walks, and networking opportunities and a field trip.
 - ❖ Launched the 'Who's Who in the Landcare Zoo' Program campaign asking the broad range of grassroots landcare groups operating in WA to provide details of who they are and where they work. The campaign has assisted the population of a WA community based landcare data base to gain a better understanding of the status of landcare groups in WA.
 - ❖ Consulted landcare groups operating at a coordinating or hub level to participate in the 2019 State of Landcare Survey providing input to as review of the 2017 State of Landcare Report providing ongoing evaluation of landcare in WA.
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- ❖ Acceptance of an Expression of Interest to host the 2019 State NRM and Coastal Conference in October 2019 and considerable preparations and promotions towards this prestigious event including consultation with members and the wider landcare community on what they would like to see at the Conference.
 - ❖ Coordinated and actively promoted nominations in the 2019 WA Landcare Awards to be presented at the 2019 NRM and Coastal Conference in October 2019.
 - ❖ Participated in Landcare Australia's 30 Years of Landcare promotional campaign collecting WA stories and celebrating landcare achievements over the past 3 decades.
 - ❖ Continued to improve the WALN website www.landcarewa.org.au providing an information hub for WALN members and the wider landcare community.
 - ❖ Maintained regular communications with WALN members and the wider landcare community through quarterly newsletters, member emails and social media. Visit the WALN [Facebook Page](#).

3. Sustain and Build Capacity of the WA Landcare Movement

- ❖ Promoted the WA Landcare Insurance Scheme to members and the wider landcare community to significantly lower costs and provide affordable insurance to a range of landcare groups.
- ❖ Provided additional resources on the WALN website including Landcare Hot Topics, Landcare Success Stories and Funding Opportunities.
- ❖ Regularly promoted landcare funding and capacity building opportunities in quarterly newsletters, member emails and social media.



4. Strengthening WALN's capacity to facilitate landcare

- ❖ Reviewed the WA Landcare Network Rules of Association and sought endorsement at a General Meeting in June 2019. Key changes to the Rules of Association now allow for individuals, businesses and local government to join WALN as Associate Members.
- ❖ Completed the WA Landcare Network Strategic Plan 2019-2022, WA Landcare Network Action Plan 2019-20 to guide the organisations directions.
- ❖ Prepared a WA Landcare Network Communications Plan 2019 detailing communications, networking and consultation activities for the network.
- ❖ Finalised WALN Draft Policies and Procedures to streamline the organisation's business.

WA LANDCARE NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the WA Landcare Network Inc (WALN) is open to any community group with an interest in landcare.

The WALN Rules of Association defines landcare as: *'any activity contributing to the improvement of the natural environment. The natural environment includes urban and rural bush, waterways, wetlands, natural parks, reserves, agricultural landscapes, and soils'*.

Membership of WALN is free to encourage as many groups as possible to be part of this important network. Recent changes to the WALN Constitution have made it possible for much more extensive membership including local government authorities, businesses, individuals and research organisations. Our collective voice is made stronger as a result of the extended number and range of members.

WALN hopes to increase its Ordinary Membership for community landcare groups as well as welcome aboard Associate Members during 2019-20.



**WALN AGM and Network Gathering Field Trip
Perup: Nature's Guesthouse 15-16 November 2018**

WA LANDCARE NETWORK MEMBER GROUPS

At 30th June 2019 WALN had 108 Members Groups

APACE AID Inc
 Armadale Branch Wildflower Society of WA
 Armadale City Rivercare Group
 Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group Inc
 Armadale Settlers Common Management Group
 Augusta Community Nursery/Augusta Land and Coastcare
 Australian Coastal Society
 Avon Valley Environmental Society Inc
 Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation
 Bannister Creek Catchment Group
 Bibbulmun Track Foundation
 Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group Inc
 Blackwood Basin Group
 Blackwood Biosecurity Inc.
 Blackwood Environment Centre/Bridgetown Greenbushes
 Community Landcare
 Bungendore Park Environment Group Inc.
 Busselton Dunsborough Environment Centre Inc.
 Canning River Residents Environment Protection Assoc Inc
 Capel Land Conservation District Committee
 Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund
 Caring for the Avon River Environment Inc.
 Carnamah Land Conservation District Committee
 Chittering Landcare Centre
 Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor Inc
 Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre Inc
 Conservation Council WA
 Denmark Weed Action Group
 Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee
 Dunsborough Coast and Land Care Inc.
 Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council
 Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Management Group
 Falcon Coastcare
 Frenchman Bay Association
 Friends of Booragoon and Bluegum Lakes
 Friends of Gracetown and Cowaramup Bay
 Friends of the Dale River
 Friends of Hollis Park
 Friends of Lake Claremont Limited
 Friends of Meelup Regional Park Inc.
 Friends of North Ocean Reef – Iluka Foreshore
 Friends of Paganoni Swamp
 Friends of Piesse Brook Inc.
 Friends of Queens Park Bushland
 Friends of Upper Lesmurdie Falls Inc
 Gascoyne Catchments Group
 Gillamii Centre Inc.
 Gingin Water Group Inc
 Gondwana Link Ltd
 Green Skills inc
 Helena River Catchment Group Inc.
 Jane Brook Catchment Group Inc.
 Katanning LCDC
 Kerkhof Carnaby Group
 Landcare Serpentine Jarrahdale Inc.
 Ledge Point Coastcare
 Leschenault Catchment Council
 Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
 Lower Helena Association
 Lyndon Land Conservation District Committee
 Margaret River Regional Environment Centre
 Moore Catchment Council Inc
 National Trust of Western Australia
 Nature Conservation Margaret River Region
 North Stirling Pallinup Natural Resources Inc.
 North Swan Land Conservation District Committee
 Northern Agricultural Catchments Council
 Oil Mallee Association
 Oyster Harbour Catchment Group
 Palomino Catchment Group
 Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
 Peel Region Western Ringtail Possum Action Group
 Peron Naturaliste Partnership Inc
 Perth NRM
 Rangelands NRM
 Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)
 Revegetation Industry Association of WA
 Roebuck Bay Working Group
 Roleybushcare Inc
 SERCUL: South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare Inc
 Singleton Coastcare
 South Coast Management Group
 South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.
 South West and Peel Coastal Management Group (CoastSWaP)
 South West Catchments Council
 Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare Inc
 Susannah Brook Catchment Group Inc.
 Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group Inc.
 Talbot Brook Land Management Assoc. Inc.
 The Katanning Wildflower Group
 Toby Inlet Catchment Group Inc.
 Toodyay Friends of the River
 Toodyay Naturalists' Club Inc.
 Torbay Catchment Group Inc
 Trees4Change
 WA Landskills Inc
 Wannamal Lake Catchment Group
 Warren Catchment Council Inc
 Waterbird Conservation Group Inc
 West Koojan Gillingarra Land Conservation District Committee
 Western Australian Forest Alliance
 Wheatbelt NRM Inc.
 Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee Inc.
 Wilson Wetlands Action Group
 Wirambi Landcare
 WISALT Inc (Whittington Interceptor Sustainable Agriculture Land Treatment Society)
 WoolkabunningKiaka
 Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

THE WALN TEAM

WALN operates with an Executive Committee of five to seven members who work with contracted staff to provide benefits to members and raise the profile of landcare in WA.

2018-19 WALN Office Bearers and Committee included:

Chair:	Keith Bradby
Deputy Chair:	Mick Davis
Treasurer:	Helen Watkins
Secretary:	John Holley
Committee:	Jo Ludbrook Julian Sharp

2018-19 Contract support staff included:

Louise Duxbury	Co-Executive Officer
Blair Darvill	Co-Executive Officer
Caroline Hughes	Communications and Administration Officer



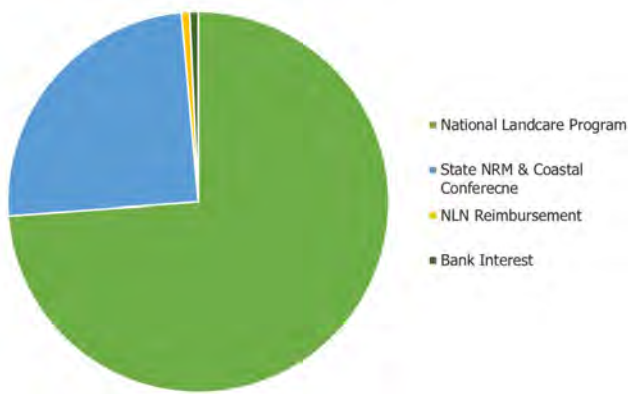
WALN Team Members (L-R) Blair Darvill, Louise Duxbury, Jo Ludbrook, Caroline Hughes, John Holley, Helen Watkins, Mick Davis and Keith Bradby

FINANCIAL REPORT

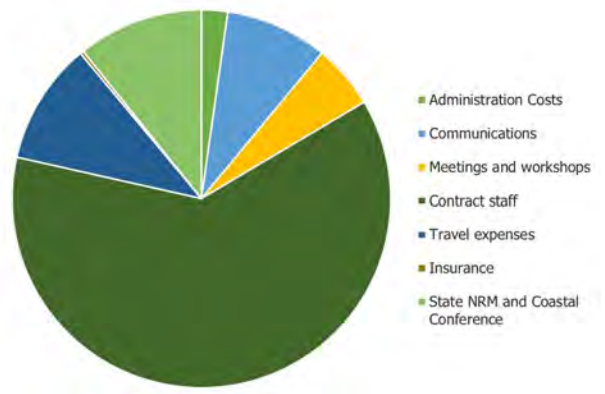
During 2018-19 WALN’s only source of income, with the exception of bank interest and a small reimbursement from the National Landcare Network, was National Landcare Program grant funding. WALN also received seed funding during 2018-19 specifically for the purpose of hosting the State NRM and Coastal Conference. Conference funds were managed and acquitted separately by the professional conference organisers, Event and Conference Co.

WALN began the 2018-19 financial year with significant grant funds carried forward. WALN's expenditure during the year closely matched it's income resulting in a further carry forward of grant funds to 2019-20. WALN’s largest expenses during the 2018-19 year were for contract staff, communications and travel.

2018-19 Income \$135,425



2018-19 Expenditure \$138,604



BREAKDOWN OF 2018-19 INCOME

National Landcare Program State	\$100,000
State NRM and Coastal Conference	\$33,500
NLN Travel Reimbursement	\$946
Bank Interest	\$978
TOTAL INCOME	\$135 425
2017-18 Funds brought forward	\$66,493

BREAKDOWN OF 2018-19 EXPENDITURE

Administration Costs	\$3,107
Communications	\$12,120
Meeting and Workshops	\$7,586
Contract Staff	\$86,026
Travel Expenses	\$14,473
Insurance	\$406
State NRM and Coastal Conference	\$14,885
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$138,604
Unspent Income	\$63,313

Further details of 2018-19 Income and Expenditure are available in 'WA Landcare Network Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2019' prepared by independent auditors Fond Richards, Certified Practising Accountants and available for viewing by contacting WALN at enquiries@landcarewa.org.au.

THE YEAR AHEAD

At the time of publication, the 2019-20 financial year was already well underway and much of WALN's capacity and energy has been spent on delivering the WA 2019 State NRM and Coastal Conference at Edith Cowan Joondalup on 1-4 October 2019.

Hosted by the WA Landcare Network, the Conference was ground-breaking in important ways. It demonstrated how important it is to have a conference hosted by the community, aiming to network and motivate the community as well as all levels of government, researchers and business. It highlighted that the community is essential in leading change, and in showing that change is possible with the support of all other sectors.

The key highlight of this inspiring Conference was that Aboriginal voices were strong, calling for greater collaboration and support for Aboriginal led initiatives. This culminated in Conference delegates voting to support the Uluru Statement of the Heart in the closing plenary session.

Now post Conference activities are under our belt WALN is now ready to get back to business. A taste of what's being done and what's to come:

- ❖ Increased communication and consultation with our members and stakeholder to ensure our network groups and WALN assist landcarers to get the job done.
- ❖ WALN Annual General Meeting and Network Gathering scheduled for March 2020 to provide an opportunity for WALN member groups to have a say in the directions of the network into the future.
- ❖ Coordination of WA landcare input on the State Climate Change Issues Paper and development a State Government Climate Policy Nov 2019 and the State Native Vegetation in WA Issues Paper Feb 2020.
- ❖ A WALN Membership Drive to encourage more of the 650 community based landcare groups to join our network and grow our collective voice. Our target is to have a third of these groups signed up by the end of the financial year.
- ❖ Promotion across the landcare community of genuine collaborations with our First Nations People and the formation of stronger relationships for caring for country.
- ❖ Development of a recognition program for WA's landcare trailblazers and champions and engagement of politicians as Friends of Landcare to champion WA's landcare efforts.
- ❖ Development of a landcare policy platform for the upcoming WA State Government Election in March 2021 to ensure WA landcare comes out on top at the next election.
- ❖ Review and development of funding opportunities available to the WA landcare community to build capacity and resilience.
- ❖ Further development of a state-wide landcare database allowing WALN to collate state-wide information on who's doing what and where, establish better networking amongst the landcare community and strengthen WALN's capacity to support WA Landcare.





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