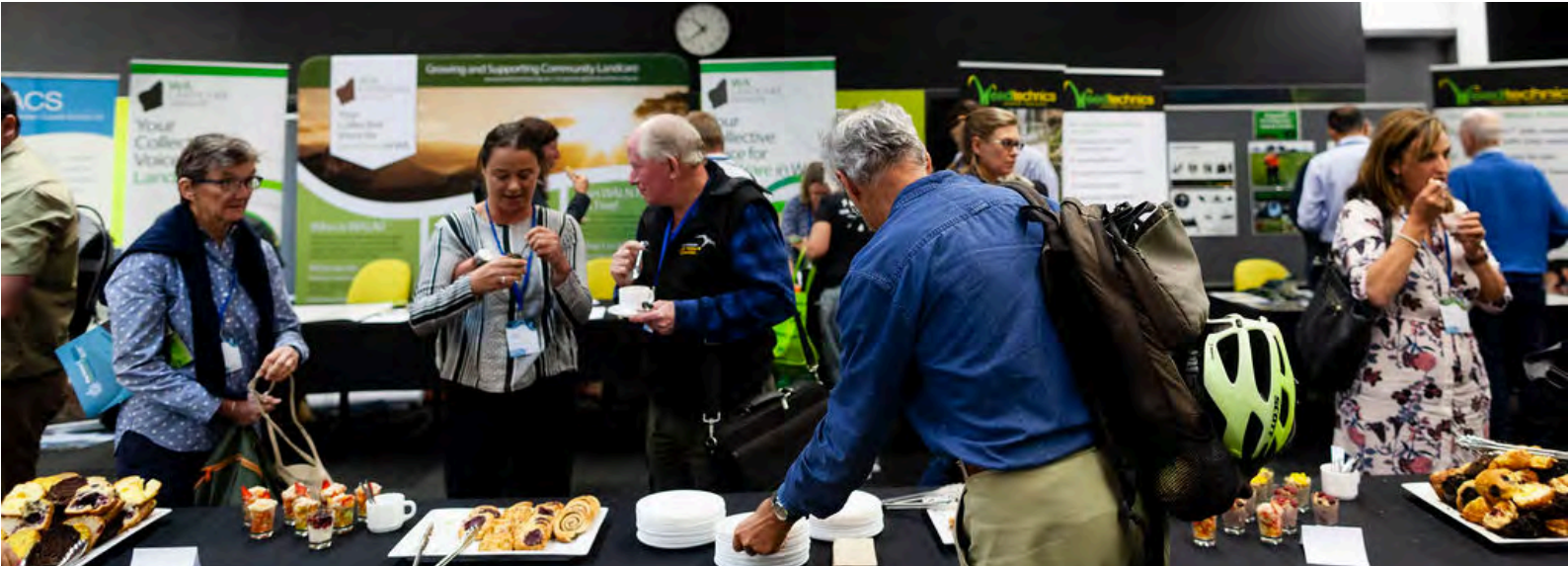




ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



2019 WA State NRM and Coastal Conference
Edith Cowan University Joondalup Campus 1-4 October 2019



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WA Landcare Network Annual General Meeting and Gathering
Roelands Village March 2020



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

2019-2020 has been a period like most of us have never experienced; droughts, bushfires and then a global pandemic have pushed many of us to our limits and really tested our resilience.



However, it has also been a period when we have shown how strong we can be together – as we know from adversity often comes triumph. From our many burnt landscapes small green shoots now grow into trees and animals return; from landscapes parched by drought sprout green fields following rain; from global uncertainty, unemployment and unimaginable chaos comes hope, opportunity and the knowledge that we are stronger together.

Over the last 12 months the WA Landcare Network has shown its own strength and risen to the challenges presented to us. Some notable successes include:

- growing our membership by 29% from 107 members to 138 members including 19 members in our new Associate Member class;
- delivering the bi-annual State NRM & Coastal Conference at Edith Cowan University Joondalup Campus in October 2019 in partnership with many of our members;
- endorsing the Uluru Statement of the Heart and working to increase our engagement with First Nations people across Western Australia;
- receiving over \$300,000 in funding from the State NRM Office to deliver an ongoing program of networking and educational events designed to support and grow the capacity of the Landcare community into the future;
- advocating State and Federal Governments for support packages to overcome challenges from the global coronavirus pandemic, and
- establishing 'Landcare Check-in' online chat sessions designed to reach out to our members and keep us all connected in these uncertain times.



I would like to commend the WALN Committee and staff for their hard work and persistence in the last 12 months of challenge and uncertainty. Their continued support and passion has put the WA Landcare Network in one of its strongest positions to date and for that I thank them from the heart.

Looking forward, I see a network of passionate and committed groups working together to further the health and prosperity of our lands, our seas and our communities. Continuing to work with local, regional, state and national partners will see us continue to grow – no matter what the next period's challenges may be.

I would like to make a special mention of our outgoing Co-Executive Officer Blair Darvill, who left WALN in late 2019. His unwavering commitment to WALN is sorely missed, and without his passion and energy the 2019 State NRM & Coastal Conference would not have been as successful as it was.

To all our member groups, staff and the countless individual landcarers and coastcarers across WA I wish you the best for 2020-21 and look forward to working with you all into our future, together.



Mick Davis
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'



2019-20 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Established in 2014 the WA Landcare Network has recently completed its 6 th year.

WALN is proud to report on the following key achievements against its 4 organisational objectives during the 2019-20 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.
- ❖ Liaised closely with the National Landcare Network and State and Territory Organisations to find a way forward for a united voice for Landcare at the Federal level.
- ❖ Facilitated consultation on COVID 19 issues with WALN Member groups and the wider landcare community and advocated for State government understanding and intervention to enable the 2020 planting season to proceed.
- ❖ Joined an Australia wide alliance of 70 conservation organisations to prepare a Post COVID 19 conservation stimulus package proposal to the Federal government. The proposal recommended the establishment of 1000s of landcare jobs in the conservation sector to help rebuild the economy post COVID 19 and help restore and rebuild natural landscapes and communities. WALN prepared a detailed proposal for Western Australia as part of the package.
- ❖ Advocated for involvement of the landcare sector in WA State government post COVID economic stimulus and offered assistance to develop community-based proposals.
- ❖ In partnership with Gondwana Link and RegenWA developed a significant funding proposal to the EverGreening Alliance Restore Australia Program for restoration activities in the Wheatbelt.
- ❖ Facilitated landcare community input and prepared submissions on behalf of the WALN members and the wider landcare community to the following review processes:
 - State Government's Climate Change Issues Paper.
 - State Government's Native vegetation in Western Australia – Issues Paper
 - Independent Review of the Environmental protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- ❖ Fostered collaborative partnerships with RegenWA, Farmers for Climate Change, WA Bird Conservation Network and the emerging WA Coastal and Marine Community Network.



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

- ❖ Increased WALN membership by 29% (107 to 138 Members during the financial year) increasing WALN's reach in the landcare community.
- ❖ Expanded WA Landcare Network Membership to include an Associate Membership Class and recruited 19 Associate Members including businesses, local governments, research organisations and interested individuals.
- ❖ Hosted the 2019 State NRM and Coastal Conference at Edith Cowan University, Joondalup from 1– 4 October 2019. The Conference involved a high level of community landcare and coastcare groups engagement from across WA with strong Aboriginal voices, calling for greater collaboration and support for Aboriginal led initiatives. The Conference culminated in delegates endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in recognition of our traditional owners.
- ❖ Hosted the 2019 WA Landcare Awards at a Gala Awards Ceremony at The Marina Mindarie on Thursday 3 October 2019 honouring the valuable contributions of community groups, schools, organisations, indigenous land managers and individuals throughout Western Australia.
- ❖ Conducted a successful WALN Annual General Meeting and Network Gathering at Roelands Village where 40 landcarers from across the State came together to network and share their landcare stories. The event themes – Youth in Landcare, Valuing Local Champions and Indigenous Collaboration were shared through presentations and workshops.
- ❖ Continued to expand 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 monthly newsletters, member emails and social media.
- ❖ Increased engagement through the WALN Facebook Page from 652 to 908 followers by regular posting of information relevant to the landcare community.

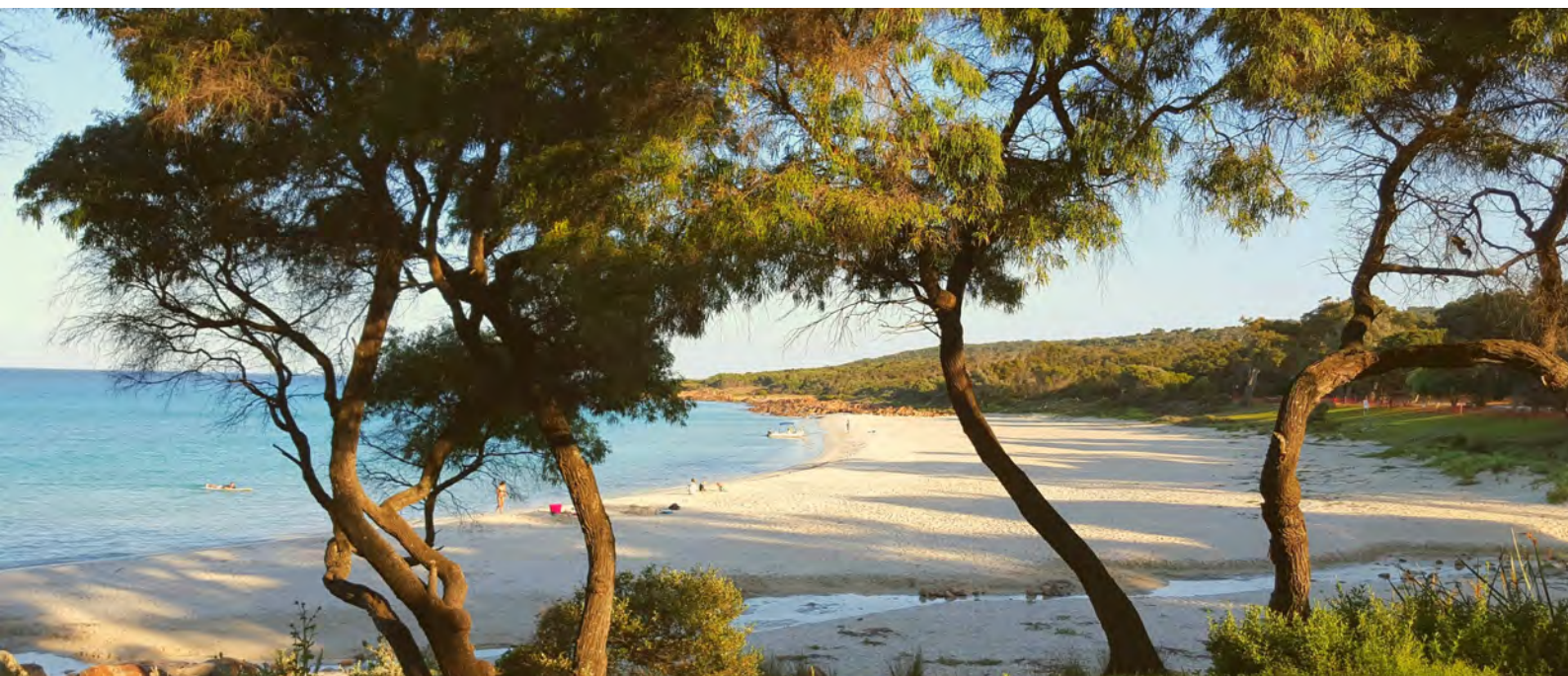


3. Sustain and Build Capacity of the WA Landcare Movement

- ❖ Continued to promote 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.
- ❖ Established Landcare Checks In as an online opportunity for landcarers to regularly come together to chat about landcare issues. Landcare Checks In focused initially on the COVID-19 health crisis and progressed as a platform for landcarers to come together to discuss a range of landcare hot topics.
- ❖ Developed a series of Aboriginal Collaboration Case Studies to showcase successful collaborations between coast and landcare groups and traditional owners sharing the essential elements of success to assist groups to develop genuine collaboration with First Nations People to jointly care for country.
- ❖ Regularly promoted landcare funding and capacity building opportunities to the WA Landcare Network.

4. Strengthening WALN's capacity to facilitate landcare

- ❖ Secured ongoing National Landcare Program funding to continue to support and grow the WA Landcare Network and represent WA in landcare discussions at the Federal level.
- ❖ Developed a clear role for the WA Landcare Network in a major Wheatbelt Restoration Project funded by the Restore Australia Program increasing WALN's capacity to support groups and facilitate collaboration in this area of the State.
- ❖ Secured an additional \$300,000 Core Funding Package from the State Government that will enable WALN to strengthen its reach and support to community coast and landcare groups.



WA LANDCARE NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Ordinary 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. During 2019-20 19 Associate Members joined the WA Landcare Network.

Our collective voice is made stronger as a result of the extended number and range of members.

WALN will undertake a major membership drive during 2020-21 to further engage landcare groups from across the State.



W A LANDCARE NETWORK MEMBER GROUPS

At 30th June 2020 WALN had 119 Ordinary Members Groups and 19 Associate Members

ORDINARY MEMBERS

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
 Bungendore Park Environment Group Inc.
 Busselton Dunsborough Environment Centre Inc.
 Canning River Residents Environment Protection Assoc Inc
 Capel LCDC
 Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund
 Care For Hedland Environmental Association Inc.
 Caring for the Avon River Environment Inc.
 Carnamah LCDC
 Chapman River Friends
 Chittering Landcare Centre
 Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre Inc
 Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor 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
 Environs Kimberley
 Falcon Coastcare
 Frenchman Bay Association
 Friends of the Dale River
 Friends of Booragoon and Bluegum Lakes
 Friends of Gracetown and Cowaramup Bay
 Friends of Hollis Park
 Friends of Lake Claremont Limited
 Friends of Meelup Regional Park Inc.
 Friends of Mosman Park Bushland
 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
 Geographe Community Landcare Nursery Inc
 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.
 Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
 Lyndon Land Conservation District Committee
 Ledge Point Coastcare
 Leschenault Catchment Council
 Lower Helena Association
 Margaret River Regional Environment Centre
 Moore Catchment Council Inc
 Mullaloo Beach Community Group Inc
 National Trust of Western Australia
 Nature Conservation Margaret River Region
 North Stirling Pallinup Natural Resources Inc.

North Swan Land Conservation District Committee (Bullsbrook Landcare)
 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
 Quinns Rocks Environmental Group Inc
 Rangelands NRM WA
 Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)
 RegenWA
 Revegetation Industry Association of WA
 River Conservation Society Inc.
 Roleybushcare Inc
 Roebuck Bay Working Group
 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
 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
 Trillion Trees (Formally Men of the Trees)
 Undalup Association Inc.
 WA Landskills Inc
 Wannamal Lake Catchment Group
 Warren Catchment Council Inc
 Waterbird Conservation Group Inc
 Western Australian Forest Alliance
 West Koojan Gillingarra Land Conservation District Committee
 Wheatbelt NRM Inc.
 Wildflower Society of Western Australia (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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products
 Greg Shales
 Shire of Kojonup
 Wendy Wilkins (Interested individual)
 Jean Sloan (Interested individual)
 Linda Mertz (Interested individual)
 Wayne Clark (Interested individual)
 Shire of Mundaring
 Sharon Mcarther (Interested individual)
 Plantrite – Wholesale Native Nursery
 Human Nature
 Debby Wunhym (Interested individual)
 Wai Yin Cheok (Interested individual)
 Kooyar Wongi
 Growise
 Western Australian Bird Conservation Network
 Janette Huston (Interested individual)
 Kerry Castles (Interested individual)
 John Dickson (Interested individual)

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.

The WALN Executive Committee meets monthly online to provide strategic and governance oversight to the operations of the organisation.

2019-20 WALN Office Bearers and Committee included:

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

2019-20 Contract support staff included:

Executive Officer	Louise Duxbury
Co-Executive Officer (left WALN December 2019)	Blair Darvill
Communications and Administration Officer	Caroline Hughes



WALN Team Members at the 2019 WA Landcare Awards (L-R) Blair Darvill, Louise Duxbury, Jo Ludbrook, Caroline Hughes, John Holley, Helen Watkins, Mick Davis and Keith Bradby. Julian Sharp absent.

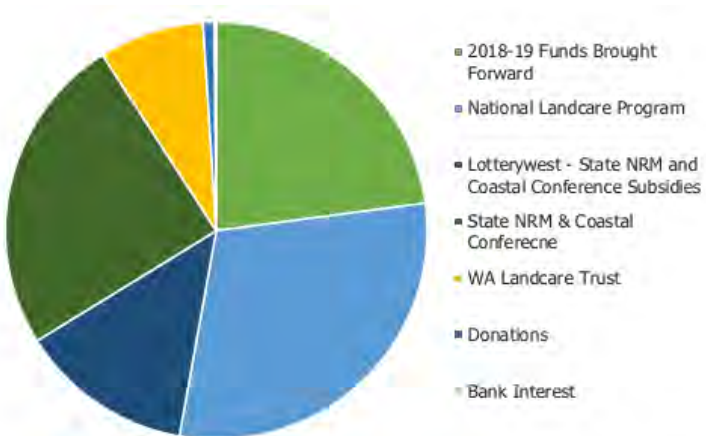
FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2019-20 WALN once again sourced the majority of its income from National Landcare Program grant funding. WALN also continued to manage funding for the 2019 State NRM and Coastal Conference. Conference funds were managed and acquitted separately by the professional conference organisers, Event and Conference Co.

WALN began the 2019-20 financial year with significant grant funds carried forward. WALN's expenditure during the year closely matched its income resulting in a further carry forward of grant funds to 2019-20. WALN's largest expenses during the 2019-20 year were for contract staff and travel. Travel costs were significantly reduced during 2019-20 due to the COVID 19 health crisis.

2019-20 Income \$334,239

2019-20 Expenditure \$228,807



Breakdown of 2019-20 Income

2018-19 Funds Brought Forward	\$76,507
National Landcare Program	\$100,000
Lotterywest - Conference Subsidies	\$44,625
State NRM Conference	\$82,814
WA Landcare Trust	\$26,923
Donations	\$2,949
Interest	\$422
TOTAL INCOME	\$334,239

Breakdown of 2019-20 Expenditure

Administrations Costs	\$5,999
Communications	\$2,727
Consultants Fees	\$72,161
Insurance	\$431
Meetings and Workshops	\$10,745
State NRM and Coastal Conference	\$120,944
Travel Expenses	\$15,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$228,807
Funds Carried Forward to 2020-21	\$105,432

Further details of 2019-20 Income and Expenditure are available in 'WA Landcare Network Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2020' prepared by independent auditors Fong Richards, Certified Practising Accountants and available for viewing by contacting WALN at enquiries@landcarewa.org.au.

THE YEAR AHEAD

WALN is extremely excited about what is on the horizon for the 2020-21 financial year.

Funding from the State Government for core business activities will help WALN to increase its networking role and support to its members and the landcare community. Specifically, WALN will focus its energies on:

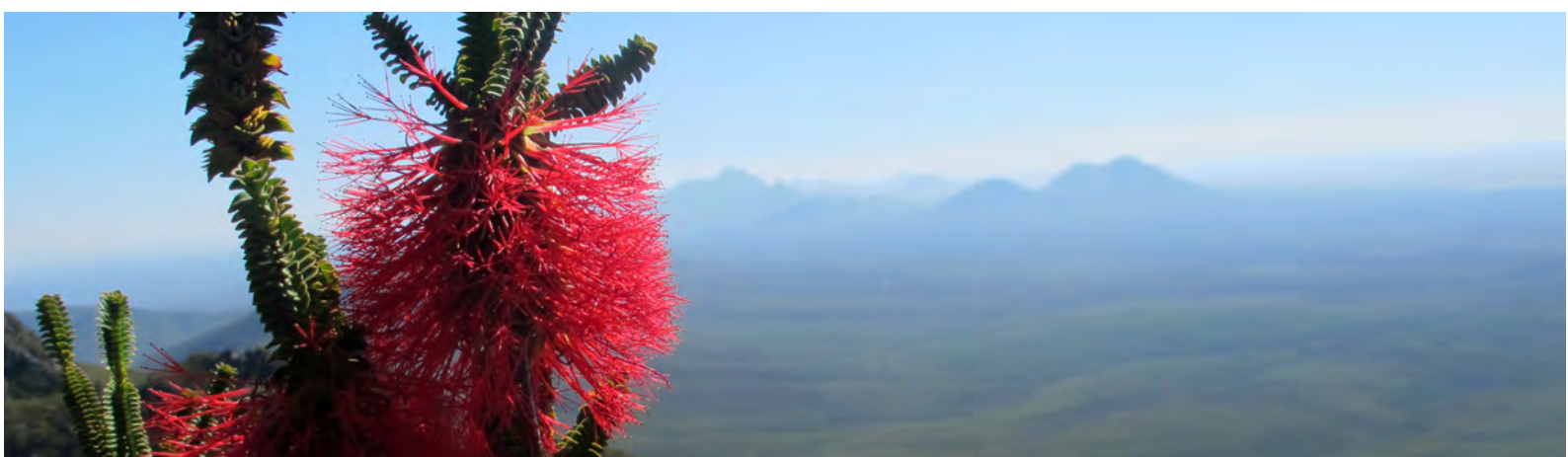
- ❖ supporting more groups through increased membership particularly in regional and northern areas of WA;
- ❖ preparing a Value of Landcare paper to show what coast and landcare add to our communities and to the state of WA;
- ❖ advocate on behalf of community groups to increase recognition of the value of landcare and fund accordingly;
- ❖ assisting with the formation and functioning of the WA Marine and Coastal Community Network;
- ❖ initiating a Landcare Facilitators Network to support coordinators and facilitators working across the state;
- ❖ supporting the running of regional forums to bring groups together;
- ❖ conducting increased online webinars and Landcare Checks In sessions on landcare hot topics;
- ❖ working with landcare groups to raise their profiles in the media;
- ❖ meeting with grower groups and Recognised Biosecurity Groups to explore collaboration and joint action; and
- ❖ collating local funding sources and offer marketing and fundraising capacity building training;

WALN's emerging involvement in the Wheatbelt Restoration Project funded by the Restore Australia Program will enable WALN to increase community based landcare effort in the wheatbelt on a scale not seen before. The project aims to initiate landscape scale restoration, rebuilding ecological communities and regenerative agricultural systems that will build resilience to the challenges from climate change, drought and bushfire. Investing in local capacity is central to this project.

WALN will continue to play a major role in communicating the capacity and readiness of the WA landcare community to assist with economic recovery post COVID 19. Together with conservation organisations from across Australia WALN has recommended the establishment of 1000s of landcare jobs in the conservation sector to help rebuild the economy post COVID 19 by restoring and rebuilding both natural landscapes and local communities.

WALN will be developing a landcare policy statement to inform all parties about the value and needs of community coast and landcare ahead of the WA State Government Election in March 2021.

WALN will also continue to grow its communication and consultation activities to assist our members and stakeholders to get the landcare job done.



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