

President's report 2017

*In summary, and as in 2016, in 2017 MLG had a very successful and active year with a wonderfully diverse range of activities & a strong and vibrant membership – so a big thank you to all our hard working and dedicated **volunteers**.*

2017 was:

- **a year of recognition**
- **a year of celebration**
- **& a very busy year**

The year started by acknowledging **Virginia Rawling's** 2017 Australia Day award for Senior Citizen of the Year for our region for her wide and varied contributions to the community, sustained over a long of time. In that context MLG celebrated her award and specifically thanked Virginia for all her work and support for our Landcare Group, from its inception and still continuing today. Virginia is still a very active member of MLG, regularly helps out at the community nursery, and we do really appreciate everything she does.

The year ended with **Gill Hall's** 2017 Landcare award (see below) and additionally Lisa and Gill's work with their volunteers has been recognised and rewarded with a \$1,000 **Landcare Australia grant** for activities expansion at the MLG community nursery (should mean bubbly as well!)

- **a year of celebration**

We celebrated our 20th year since incorporation with a bit of bubbly after Dr Strive's very informative March monthly talk on the biological control of rabbits. A lot has been achieved in those 20 years of MLG and the enthusiasm and effort of our membership grows.

We also celebrated the completion of the multi-year LLB joint project with Greening Australia (with more bubbly) – more on that later.

- **& a very busy year**

Early in the year the membership made several suggestions for MLG activities in 2017 including:

- **Riparian zone management** -a field trip was held in June and the host's very useful report loaded to our website

- **Ecological sustainability** – Dr McIntyre presented and lead discussion on the topic at our August monthly Mtg.
- **Alternative fertilisers** - Fiona Leach's reports on alternative fertiliser trials in our region were loaded to our website for easier membership access.
- **A repeat of the 2016 solar energy talk** – held over to 2018.

Other well received monthly meeting topics were Beetles in the Farming Landscape by Dr Ng, and the LLB Manager Jeni Delandre's presentation on that project.

Other field trips included: a farm dam walk on Gill Hall's place, visits to 2 LLB project sites, a Yass Gorge walk led by Jill McGovern, and a visit to the Lerida TSR led by Ben Serafin and Sue McIntyre.

It was a huge year again for our nursery, with many working bees, and many volunteers just turning up to help whenever they could.

In my report to the 2016 AGM, I noted that for the first time we had sufficient accumulated resources to **jointly fund, with land holders, revegetation projects** to complement other larger scale projects such as Murrumbateman Landcare Linking Biodiversity (LLB). In 2017 we provided plants for and helped in planting at Sue and Peter Watson's, and at the Martin/Walker property.

MLG volunteers also helped out with the planting at the McColl's and the GA-sponsored project to provide fodder trees (*Allocasuarina's* or she-oaks) for the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

And again we attracted a lot of interest in our presence at the Murrumbateman Field Days (and not just for the scat competition!)

No wonder we are all a bit tired!

The Landcare Linking Biodiversity Project ran for over 5 years, and by working together with GA and land holders we have achieved significant results at a large landscape scale for environmental restoration.

The community profile gained through that project, and thru our in-house funded extensions, the contribution of the nursery to both projects and member activities, and our program of talks and field trips have all raised community awareness of and enthusiasm for landcare. Sheridan's report has the membership numbers, but they are the highest they have ever been.

In the new year I hope we keep building on that enthusiasm to be involved in landcare, and I look forward to hearing your ideas on how we all can do more.

Gill Hall MLG Landcarer of the Year 2017

Gill has been an outstanding and active member of Murrumbateman Landcare for nearly 10 years becoming a committee member in 2011 and then Murrumbateman Secretary in 2013 until last year.

Gill is always one of the most well organised of anyone on the committee!! Gill has always been one of those amazing people who always makes sure things really get done, that all the details are carefully planned for and that we follow up where we need to.

So Murrumbateman Landcare would like to congratulate Gill on her award as MLG Landcarer of the Year and thank Gill for all her hard work and in particular her generosity of spirit and of getting in and getting jobs done.

In particular most recently Gill has worked very hard to ensure that the plant nursery has been operating smoothly - there are so many jobs to do from seed supply, propagation days, coordinating people and nursery supplies.

Additionally Gill has been the driving force for the very big job of project managing the 6 projects that MLG has supported, organised and funded for revegetation and restoration work in the Murrumbateman area over the last 12 months.

MLG committee all are away this weekend so are sorry they cannot be here in person to support Gill but will re-enact her award at the Christmas party so that we all can show in person our appreciation for all her wonderful contributions.

Well done Gill!!

Jacqui Stol, President, on behalf of Murrumbateman Landcare Group December 2017