



MLG Presidents' Report 2021

Fortunately 2021 has been a welcome contrast to the drought and bushfires of 2019/20 with La Nina bringing excellent seasonal conditions although the

COVID pandemic continued to impact on our community and with a number of Landcare activities such as meetings, field days and other community events postponed or cancelled. The plant nursery and projects continued thanks to our hard working and dedicated volunteers.

Native Plant Nursery Our MLG nursery managers and volunteers continued their sterling efforts to continue propagating thousands of local native plants, even having working bees when covid safe. A large number of plant orders have been taken from members with much hard work going into getting these established. Some unexpectedly good news came from the local South East Local Land Services at Yass who generously provided a very welcome grant for an overhaul of the irrigation system as well as a larger garden shed with a concrete floor.

Program of activities and events for 2021 As for most community groups our events and program of speakers were often put on hold during 2021 as coronavirus impacted however four video and live meetings were managed to be held with great speakers (Fungi 4 Land, birds and climate change, local climate challenges), a field day on propagation by cuttings and a Christmas party at Four Winds Winery was also enjoyed by all!

Murrumbateman Village Crown Reserve A great deal of work has continued in managing the project on this 4.5ha crown land reserve in the middle of Murrumbateman Village including a successful grant application to the Crown Lands Improvement Fund (supported by Yass Valley Council and Crown Lands) for new fencing and entry points to the Crown Reserve. Delightful interpretative signage has been developed and set up at entry points highlighting the important suite of rare native wildflowers. A comprehensive report has been produced as a result by Umwelt Consultants detailing the high conservation values and legislative protection it falls under to ensure the significance of the reserve's values are well understood by developers and others.

Murrumbateman Bush Cemetery A huge range of works continue including new signage in development, aerial imagery, mapping and surveys by Umwelt providing recommendations on conservation area 2a and the condition of the conservation areas within the burial section of the cemetery and reseeded using Kangaroo Grass harvested from the Village reserve.

Membership It was encouraging to see MLG's membership to continue growing to 85 families during the year and MLG's financial position remains strong resulting from member contributions and funding grants (see Treasurer's Report 2021)

As the impacts of a changing climate increase MLG continues to be "climate ready" with MLG and other local Landcare groups in these very successful collaborations which are now in their third year. Tasks include continuing to develop strategic planning and implement on-ground actions including sourcing seed with genetic diversity amongst selected local native plant species identified as suitable for resilient revegetation plantings across the region and setting up trial plots. This work is at the leading edge of science and landcare practices in Australia

We continue to provide digital and newsletter information to members and the public on other regional landcare events and provide advice to the local community. *MLG's Facebook page* reaches a wide audience and MLG website content has continued to grow. Regular articles are published in the community section of the Murrumbateman Directory reaching a new large local audience.

We look forward to another great year of activities with all our members in 2022 and a very special thank you to the hardworking MLG committee members for all their tremendous efforts during 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacqui Stol'.

Jacqui Stol, President, on behalf of Murrumbateman Landcare Group, 7th December 2021