



Murrumbateman
Landcare
Group

Chairpersons Report, AGM 1st December, 2016

In summary, MLG has had another very successful and active year with an wonderfully diverse range of activities & a strong and vibrant membership – so a big thank you to all our hard working and dedicated volunteers

- **Monthly meetings** Meetings were held on the first Thursday's of most months and included a range of excellent and informative speakers such as Michael Doherty CSIRO plant ecologist on eucalypt identification, a fascinating native bee expert, a very popular talk on solar power generation and battery storage, climate scientist Steve Crimp from CSIRO on "agriculture in a even more sunburnt country", "Wine, Cheese and Trees" at the nursery, Christmas Party at the Murrumbateman pub and a presentation on African Lovegrass - a serious newly invading weedy grass
- **MLG Landcarer of the Year Award** Congratulations to Sheridan Roberts who was awarded Landcarer of the year award by MLG in 2015 at the Yass Area Network of Landcare Group Award Night for her many valuable contributions to Landcare over many years including extensive committee work. Jacqui Stol is the recipient for 2016
- **Membership** The number of financial members is at the highest levels it has been for a number of years. The variety of MLG activities and follow-up of potential members has boosted numbers to 151 on our MLG membership list with 58 fully financial members. These are mainly family memberships so the number of individuals will be significantly higher than that
- **Native plant displays and plantings at Jones Park** The Jenny Langridge memorial native display garden is now in its 2nd year and continues to add to the attractiveness of our local environment. Again thanks to our volunteers who undertook weeding, removing fallen leaves and dead material and replacing plants that didn't survive the first year
- **Projects and funding** This year saw an exciting large new initiative by MLG to fund and support a 3-5 revegetation projects on members properties to complement externally funded projects such as Murrumbateman Landcare Linking Biodiversity (MLLB) which is now in the monitoring and communication stages. MLG also was part of a successful funding proposal with Greening Australia on a habitat restoration project for endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo's. Once again thanks to our Sydney based private donor who donated \$500 for the nursery
- **Native Plant Nursery** Congratulations to all the nursery coordinators and volunteers on another big year operating MLG's very successful large native plant nursery, running propagations sessions, taking seed orders, coordinating with projects and landholders and undertaking working bees which resulted in the MLG native plant nursery propagating nearly 7000 native plant tubestock for member landholders private properties and for existing and new projects such as the Jenny Langridge memorial garden, Jones Park stream bank revegetation & Murrumbateman Waste Transfer Station revegetation as well as providing tubestock for give away at the field days and markets.
- **Field and Market Days** A community planting day was held in September at the Rajics property to create a 1km connectivity restoration corridor; a Wildflower and Bird Walk was held with Greening Australia on "Bundidgerry" and a farm management walk was organised on "Rugosa" looking at dam and wetland management to improve water quality, vegetation and wildlife habitat. MLG also has been undertaking regular display stalls at the local Murrumbateman Farmers monthly markets providing advice and native tree/shrub give away's. However a dam and wetlands walk had to be postponed to next year due to very wet winter conditions
- **2016 Murrumbateman Field Days** MLG presented once again a comprehensive landcare display, 3 interactive talks on wombats in the Mullion and local property revegetation, provided family activities for children & members provided a wide range of information and advice to visitors as well as giving away hundreds of free native plants, in conjunction with the South East Local Land Services and other Landcare groups attracting over 800 visitors
- **Communications** a range of communications were undertaken including local electronic newsletter items; redeveloped newsletter distribution and disseminated a wide range of information via updated email distribution list (approx.. 200) on local and regional field days, training courses, funding opportunities etc
- **Provided advice, on-ground work, assisted applications for funding and letters of support** to local landowners, Greening Australia, NPWS, local school students, the Rec grounds etc
- **Distributed a broad range** of latest land management factsheets and booklets at meetings, field days etc.

Jacqui Stol

1st December 2016