The New South Wales Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative

LLCI Update – October 2018

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www.landcare.nsw.gov.au
Building the case for 2019 – 2023

The big focus for the program at the moment, the item on the top of our to-do-list is; making the case for the continuation of this great program beyond June 2019. It would be fair to say that the LLCI has been one of the most important investments in the Landcare space across NSW in the last 20 years, and when we consider the ever changing funding landscape, the continuation of it may be one of the most important issues to face Landcare in the near future.

In September this year a business case for investment in the NSW Landcare Program 2019 – 2023 was submitted to the Honourable Niall Blair, Minister for Trade and Industry, he is the Minister responsible for the LLCI.

This was jointly developed by the teams at Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.

The business case covers a number of issues however it is built around Local Coordinators supporting local communities.

The components of the Program going forward that we have proposed for investment include:

- Local Landcare Coordinators
- Regional Landcare Coordinators
- Aboriginal Partnership and Engagement
- Personal Professional Development for Coordinators
- A Community of Practice Program, and
- Program Management.

We are working with the Minister and his senior advisors to scope out the best way to secure this investment.

One thing we don’t have is a announcement date, there are a few things that might effect this, including an upcoming election. However the advice is that we should have some indication early in the new calendar year.

More infomation: [Link]

Trees in the House in November

The Parliamentary Friends of Landcare will be hosting the annual Trees in the House event in Parliament House at 6pm on 13 November. The focus of this will be highlighting the variety, diversity and value of a Landcare supported by the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative.

If you are interested in attending this event, please RSVP by 2 November to administration@landcarensw.org.au. Numbers are limited.

Changing of the Guard at Landcare NSW Inc.

At the upcoming Landcare NSW Council Meeting and AGM in November, Rob Dulhunty, the long standing Chair of Landcare NSW will stand down from his position.

Rob is a foundational member of Landcare NSW, involved in its establishment in 2007 and has been the Chair since 2012.

Rob has been a true champion of Landcare and was instrumental in the development of the Memorandum of Understanding between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW. Rob was a key player in the proposal to Government that resulted in the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative.

Rob’s achievements will be celebrated at the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare – Trees in the House event in November.

More information: [Link]

Support from Parliament

On Thursday 20 September, NSW Sustaining Landcare Week was debated in the Legislative Assembly of the NSW Parliament. 11 MPs spoke on the significant value Landcare provides and commended the hard work and dedication of Landcarers across the state.

Specific recognition was given to volunteers, Landcare committees and the extraordinary work of the Local Landcare Coordinators.
Evaluating the LLCI

As we approach the four year mark of the LLCI, evaluation is becoming a key focus. A significant level of work is taking place at the moment to collate material from the LLCI Report Cards, six-monthly reports, financial reports, Gateway usage, LLCI gatherings and data collected at the NSW State Conference to inform an evaluation of the impact and performance of the LLCI.

The program has engaged Deb Tkachenko to lead the evaluation work. Deb has a great history and understanding of Landcare and the LLCI.

The evaluation aims to not specifically show what individual Coordinators have achieved, but more importantly; what impact a support program such as this has on the overall success of the Landcare movement.

We know we deliver outcomes for both the community and government in terms of social capital, resilience, connectedness, sustainable agriculture, natural resource management and Landcare. The difficulty is capturing all this and asking the right question to gain this information.

We are focusing our efforts in the following areas and developing our key evaluation questions around the themes of:

- Partnerships being developed
- Engagement being improved and with who?
- Capacity in social, environmental and agricultural contexts
- Co-delivery of the LLCI program and its legacy
- Landcare and its role in connecting communities
- Practice change on the ground
- Social capital outcomes
- The most significant change resulting from the LLCI program.

We will be seeking assistance at the next LLCI gathering and will be undertaking specific evaluation activities.

2019 Statewide LLCI Gathering

An Event Focused on You!

Save the date: 18 – 20 March 2019

Our third state wide gathering is being planned for March in Sydney next year.

The location will be at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence located in Redfern, which promises to be an extremely interesting venue. Please save these dates in your calendar. We are aiming to put together an event that will be focused on you and your needs as participants in the LLCI.

Final details are still coming together, however we are aiming to have some great speakers, valuable workshops and a lot of really productive networking sessions.

These statewide events are a part of the Community of Practice component of the LLCI and are a requirement under the LLCI funding agreements. If you cannot attend, please let us know early.

We are looking for Practice Change Specific case studies to feature at the State Gathering. Something that has lead to a real and tangible change in attitude or a result on ground.

Time to start thinking if you might have a great one to share. If you do, let us know.

Induction Pack for new Coordinators!

Are you a new Local Landcare Coordinator?

Check out the Induction Pack on Gateway for a wider context of the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative, the role of the Local Coordinator and the part the Initiative plays in supporting the broader Landcare movement.

Click here: Induction Pack

If you have a suggestion for something you think we need to focus on please email it through to Natasha English.
Heading West for the 2019 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference

Landcarers, landholders and community members in the Western region and throughout NSW will have a great opportunity to experience the best of the outback with Broken Hill announced as the host city for the 2019 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services conference.

The theme of the 2019 event is: “Healthy Landcare – Healthy Landscapes”

The conference, which will be held from 22 to 24 October 2019, will highlight some of the great work and achievements by the Landcare community and landholders in the Western region while also offering informative speakers, workshops and field trips.

The EOI to host the conference by Western Landcare and Western Local Land Services was selected based on a number of factors including that of the 11 state conferences held since 1996, none had been in the Western Region. Previous conferences have been held at Hawkesbury, Orange (x2), Parkes (x2), Batemans Bay, Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Port Macquarie, Newcastle, and Albury.

With accommodation in Broken Hill expected to be at capacity for the event, participants are encouraged to make bookings at their earliest convenience.

Tickets for the conference will go on sale next year while announcements regarding guest speakers and field trips will be made in due course.

For more information visit: www.nswlandcareconference.com.au or connect on Facebook and Twitter

Wrap Up of the 2018 National Landcare Conference

Over 500 Landcarers, industry representatives and government officers gathered in Brisbane in early October for the 2018 National Landcare Conference.

The theme of the conference was “Building a Better Tomorrow” with key note and concurrent presentations all focusing on that theme.

A highlight of the event was the strong NSW contingent, really showcasing how organised, dedicated and capable Landcare in NSW is.

The LLCI was well represented and drew a lot of attention at our booth, which showcased everything to do with the Initiative.

The LLCI Team presented on the great success delivered by a supported Landcare in NSW, while Adrian Zammit (Landcare NSW, CEO) lead a presentation on the economic value of a supported Landcare movement. Both presentations were very well received.

NSW was very successful in the National Landcare Awards with Clean4Shore winning People’s Choice, David Marsh from Boorowa, winning the Individual Landcarer Award, and Charlie Arnott taking out the Bob Hawke Landcare award.

All the info and photos from the conference can be found here: National Landcare Conference Website
Spotlight on Reporting

With two reporting periods remaining in the current LLCI it is time to get back up to speed with reporting requirements.

The next six-monthly reporting is due 15 December.

If you have not caught up from June, now is the time to make a concerted effort to do so. If you are reasonably new in your role and need clarification of what is required, seek help either from your employer or from Natasha English or Chris McCulloch.

Getting the Most from Your Report Cards

Over the last few years you have not only completed the LLCI six-monthly reporting, but also a number of Report Cards.

We are working with Charles Sturt University to analyse some of the data collected. In the near future, Charles Sturt University will be providing each host organisation a capacity snapshot based on the information received from Report Card 2, 2017 and 2018.

Each snapshot will be designed to enable groups to use it to reflect on their needs, and what to do about those reflections. The information in this report is based on your self-assessment, guided by the responses to the questions in Report Card 2. The results have been presented as a ‘snapshot’ to reflect the dynamic nature of groups, and to allow this report to act as baseline data for you to track your group’s progress over time. We suggest you use the results as a starting point for considering your group capacity rather than a definitive ‘score’ on any of the items. The results are there to help your group discuss its plans for the future. What do they tell you about your needs and your opportunities?

- Check that your group is comfortable with the results, and the individual responses to the questions that created the results. If there is any disagreement, use that to clarify what the group thinks are its capacity strengths and needs, and why.
- Examine the ‘outliers’ – those responses to specific questions where your group significantly differs from the average of all groups. Does your group think they are a good reflection of your groups’ strengths and/or needs? Do they matter?

Resource Spotlight:

“Community Engagement for Collective Action Handbook”

This handbook introduces key concepts, skills, tools and strategies for practitioners to bring stakeholders together to develop and implement more effective projects.

Click here: Engagement Handbook

Part 2 Report: A short update on progress, details, changes, wins and any difficulties you might be having. It should take less than 30 minutes.

Financial Report: Designed to review your actuals against your budget up to 30 November. It allows for any adjustments to be made prior to ruling off your six-month accounts. This is not reviewed in a right or wrong sense, but to allow us to help you identify any financial issues or opportunities.

Annual Action Plan: Coordinators and Host organisations are asked to review progress on their activities, note any changes to original plans and adapt their actions to meet priorities identified. This is designed to help you as an organisation and it allows us to determine where organisations are struggling.

Remember; if you are having any trouble get in touch.

Reporting info on Gateway: Click here
- For any capacity needs your group identifies, does your group think it is important that they be addressed? If so, what support should you be looking for, and how?

For example, a group might have obtained a low score for organisational capital. On examining the graph detailing the questions related to organisational capital, the low score is seen to result from the responses to the two middle questions on monitoring. The group decides this is an aspect that needs addressing, and asks their Landcare coordinator to run a workshop that will guide their group through an exercise on how to monitor progress against the group’s plan, and to set up a process for regular monitoring into the future.

You could use the five ‘capitals’ approach in this report to help think about your group’s capacity needs in a systematic way:

**Human capital** relates to the people in your group;

Do we have sufficient membership to do what we want to do?

Do group members have the skills they need? If not, what skills are lacking? Should training be undertaken or sourced in these skills or knowledge?

Are our executive arrangements sufficient for our group needs?

**Bonding social capital** relates to how cohesive your group is;

Do we share our goals and visions with each other enough? If not, what processes might help us do that?

Do we have good ways to deal with differences of opinions within our group?

**Bridging social capital** relates to how your group connects with others.

Do our group aims and activities fit well with the broader community?

Do we get to share our knowledge with other groups, and hear from them? Do we network enough to keep up with things?

**Organisational capital** relates to how your group organises internally.

Do we have a strategy for what we want to do in the next 1, 2, 5 years?

Are our members, including executive members, clear about what they should be doing for the group? Do we have this written anywhere?

If someone came to a group meeting, would they think we looked organised?

**Physical and financial capital** relates to infrastructure.

Questions: Do we need more funds to achieve what we want to do? Do we know where to go (websites, people) to find more money for our works?

Example Organisational Capacity Snapshot based on data from report cards:
Gateway Update

Whilst many of you reported that Gateway is not something you use beyond reporting, we wanted to alert you to the newer improved aspects of the site.

We have created our News Flash Boxes to keep content fresh on the homepage, with information that is of interest to you.

There have been a number of improvements under the Case Studies page to allow you to search more easily on a topic. Also the latest Case Studies sit at the top.

You are now able to create a generic Case Study, one that may not fall under the LLCI Program but is still a great example of the Landcare activity in your area regardless of the funding.

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“We must look past the short-term drought solutions and improve the Land itself”

Article from The Conversation.com (24 October).

An interesting article that discusses the impacts of drought and the impacts on reduced funding to bodies like Local Land Services, Catchment Management Authorities and the flow on effects to Landcare.

It states that: “Well-supported and resourced organisations like Landcare groups are pivotal to supporting effective land management, which improves degraded land and helps farmland (and farmer) through tough times.”

Full article: Click here

The LLCI and Landcare NSW Teams on Social Media:

Don’t forget that you can keep in touch with the team over a variety of social media platforms.

Facebook: The NSW Landcare Program
Local Land Services
NSW Conference
NSW Under 35yrs Coordinators

Instagram: nsw_landcare_coordinator_
Opportunities on the Horizon

OzFish Near You!

OzFish is an organisation who works with recreational fishers to restore fish habitat. They are not-for-profit and a registered charity. They have Chapters of recreational fishers popping up all over NSW with more to come!

Currently they have Chapters in Mildura, Wagga Wagga, Orange, Dubbo, Tamworth, Newcastle, Ballina, Tenterfield, Lismore, Tweed Heads, Sydney.

All are undertaking fish habitat restoration including re-snagging, fish hotels (picture below) reef balls, pest fish eradication, riparian planting, habitat mapping, fish monitoring with underwater video, education activities and so much more! They have fantastic support from corporate partner BCF as well as other government and non-government support, who are assisting to make it all happen.

No Chapter near you? No worries, if you or other recreational fishers you know are interested in starting a Chapter in your area, get in touch with OzFish on ozfishunlimited@gmail.com or 0419 185 538.

Many Chapters have already joined forces with their local Landcare groups, partnering on projects and joining their combined labour and finances for fantastic results for fish and the environment. If you’re a Landcare Group looking for support on a fishy project, please get in touch with Director of Habitat Programs, Cassie Price on 0402 408 791 or cassieprice@ozfish.org.au

Grant Opportunity:
The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal’s “Tackling Tough Times Together”

Objectives:
- Reduce social isolation by facilitating strong social cohesion and connection;
- Support and engage the community in leadership development and skills training;
- Support opportunities for social and educational participation and address disadvantage caused by the drought, for children and young people;
- Reduce volunteer fatigue and build the capacity, capability and sustainability of local not-for-profit organisations to provide support to their communities, particularly where they are playing an increased role during the drought; and
- Support local economic recovery or renewal through projects that stimulate economic activity and cash-flow within communities.

For more information and to apply: Click here

Contacts

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