

MITTA VALLEY LANDCARE INC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26TH NOVEMBER 2023

PRESIDENT REPORT

The following report will provide our members, stakeholders, and the community with an understanding of the group's activities and their impacts, over the past twelve months.

It has been a privilege to again serve in the capacity as President over the past year, as we continue to be an active and vibrant group that is delivering on projects and activities that have been prioritised by members. The group is presently healthy in both membership and the skills required to run the organisation and while our volunteer numbers have remained steady, it has been more difficult to attract members to take on Executive positions which are essential to the on-going management of the Mitta Landcare Group. The financial membership of the organisation now stands at 54 members.

I wish to acknowledge and thank our Executive, our Committee members, Project Officers, volunteers, financial partners and sponsors for their valued contributions over this period of time, without your support and commitment, our Landcare group would not be able to perform at the level that is required to deliver on projects and events we hold throughout the year. Thank you also to Simon Feillafe, who continues to support our group through his Facilitator role with M2M.

I would like to highlight some of our key projects and achievements for the year and for those interested to gain a more detailed summary, please go to our website <https://mittavalleylandcaregroup.com/> :

Strategy Review: Our Strategic Plan for the Mitta Valley Landcare Group was reviewed in May 2023, and again the day was facilitated by David Hardwick of Soil Land Food. Four areas to focus our resources on over the next four years were identified via a survey sent out to our membership and by those who attended the strategy setting day. The Focus areas are Climate Resilience, Integrative Invasive Species, Healthy Landscapes and Farm Management.

Grant Projects: The two major grant projects for this year include the Murray Darling Basin Healthy Rivers Grant, whereby 9 projects were completed, and the Doing It With Dung Project. Both projects were funded through Federal Government grants. The MDB Healthy Rivers Program included frog habitat surveys and protection, gully stabilization and erosion projects, exclusion fencing of rivers, creeks and wetlands and revegetation projects.

We have also recently been successful in receiving funding through Landcare Victoria Inc. for the 23/24 year. This funding will go towards two new projects which will include exclusion fencing for protection of native vegetation, wetlands, and streams.

Other events and activities of significance this year included:

- **Training webinars for community volunteers through LVI on topics to provide up-skilling for those who wished to participate.**
- **Our Bird reports which have been a popular addition to our monthly activities.**
- **We again attended the Tallangatta Expo and showcased our projects and activities and is our main annual external promotional event.**

- **Two social and knowledge sharing events were held during the year; the first in April at Fernvale, with guest speakers, Anna Turnbull, and Alex Knights from Charles Stuart University, researching frogs and wetlands. The second was a Fungi Workshop and walk lead by Ecologist Audrey Beard.**
- **We purchased new display boards for our Landcare group to promote events and projects.**
- **We commenced the “Trailer Project”, whereby our group will have substantial tools and assets required to carry out planting projects. This required sourcing Grants to support the project for a custom-built trailer. Grant funding of \$18,000 has been secured.**
- **We also supported external activities such as the Mitta Valley Bike Track and the formation of the Wild Dog Action Group, with both having a focus on environmental issues and impacts on private landholders.**

In closing, I want to thank the Executive and Committee members, who have contributed volumes of volunteer hours to Landcare, without your on-going and unwavering support the Mitt Valley Landcare group would not be the robust and forward thinking group it is today.

Thank you

Karen Moroney

President MVLG 2023.