

Wooragee Landcare Strategic Plan 2023

ABSTRACT

The Wooragee Landcare Strategic Plan provides direction and guidance for the group. It provides a tool to focus our collaborative effort on the activities required to achieve our aims and objectives.

Original plan prepared by Wooragee Landcare and Evaluation and Sustainability Services 2017

Revised by Wooragee Landcare 2023

Vision: Formed by local landholders we aim to motivate and support landholders within the catchment to engage in sustainable land management practices, improve the management of our natural environment and its resources for future generations.

Purpose of the Strategic Plan

Wooragee Landcare has consulted broadly with our catchment community and members to develop a clear set of objectives to guide our activities and pursue opportunities into the future.

The objectives are based on the desires of the community and members.

This plan will guide the actions the group will undertake.

Governance of Wooragee Landcare

The Wooragee Landcare Group (WLG) was established in 1989 and is one of the oldest groups within the North East of Victoria.

It is a voluntary community group that is co-ordinated by a committee of members who are elected each Annual General Meeting. In addition to relying on members it has also received funding for a variety of projects.

Objective 1: To conduct or facilitate projects for on-ground works		
Strategies:	How are we going to do it	What will success look like?
Pest animal and weed management works on public and private lands	Support the development of a pest animal and weed action plan that identifies our priorities for the catchment, funding and partnering opportunities and management activities that are current and applicable to our community. Link with education and awareness activities.	Increase in landholders undertaking regular and appropriate pest management works Increased awareness of the community in pest plant and animal control WLG and partners successfully deliver a pest plant program and provides education in this field.
To take a more planned approach to the ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance of Reedy Creek and catchment	Support the development of a plan of management and assist with implementation.	Successful delivery and implementation of a plan of management
Facilitate funding opportunities for land managers where possible	Support the development of funding opportunities to enable land managers to deliver appropriate on-ground works.	Land managers have been able to deliver on ground works

Objective 2: To provide opportunities for awareness and education related to sustainable land management		
Strategies:	How are we going to do it	What will success look like?
Promote the development of the next generation of Landcarers	Ongoing support of Junior Landcare in collaboration with Wooragee Primary School. Look at incorporating junior event opportunities at other events	A dynamic / proactive approach to Junior landcare is maintained Landcare events that provide opportunities for junior landcarer's involvement are held A positive, active relationship with the school which allows uptake of opportunities as they arise
Facilitate training that supports an understanding and appreciation of sustainability, ecosystems and nature	Identify community priorities and concerns Identify funding opportunities for relevant training / events, guest speakers Promote events delivered in other catchments and potential partners who could collaborate in the joint delivery of events. Link with on-ground work activities.	Opportunities delivered to promote sustainable land management Nature conservation opportunities enhanced Awareness raised on adapting and or mitigating properties to climate change
Promote the value of private property for the connection of remnant bushland and protection of common and dwindling species	Identify opportunities and promote them to the community Support and develop community events that showcase the value of private property and positive landholder action	Increased community interest and uptake of opportunities.
Objective 3: Facilitate, run and foster community events for community engagement and sharing		

Aims of WLG

The WLG aims to:

- Promote best land management practices for all types of land uses
- Work in partnership with local land managers to ensure sustainability
- Encourage district wide participation in Landcare activities which will aim to include the many diverse community members
- Encourage community interaction via education, sharing of knowledge, restoration works and social events

Manage, protect and conduct restoration works of Road Reserves and Crown Land in our area

- Be concerned with habitat, water quality, revegetation, weed and pest control
- Provide assistance, advice and encouragement for native flora and fauna rehabilitation projects

Strategies:	How are we going to do it	What will success look like?
Run or promote community events or provide information that contributes to community resilience.	Engage with the community through the running or facilitation of sustainable living events Network with the community to understand community priorities Identify funding opportunities and relevant training / events, guest speakers and facilitate or support appropriate events and activities Promote community events in the newsletter and online platforms	Workshops / community events are well supported by the community Sustainable farming practices and living are promoted Opportunities created to link with events to support well-being

Objective 4: For the Wooragee Landcare group to operate sustainably and for the community

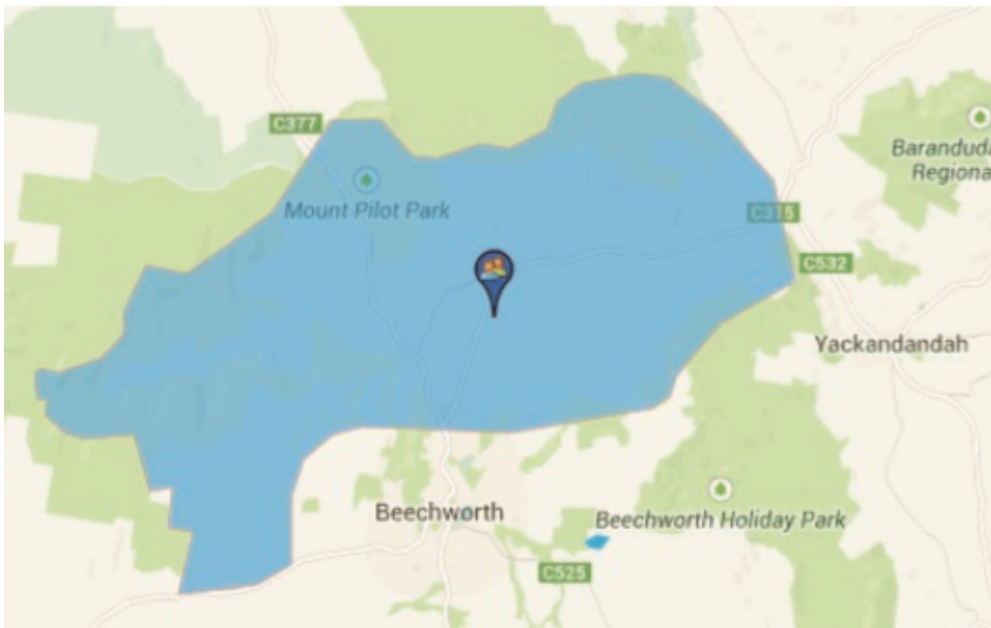
Strategies:	How are we going to do it	What will success look like?
Actively promote Wooragee Landcare and create opportunities for people to join	Maintain newsletter and online platforms Timely and regular advertising of events across different media	An efficient and effective promotion of WLG and its events using the newsletter and other mediums Greater proportion of community renew their membership resulting in a strong financial base
Maintain good governance processes	Ensure best practice across the operation of a not for profit organisation Use of Google Workspace for Committee communications, storage and record keeping Develop an induction process for new Committee members	All committee members are aware of and operate in accordance with the constitution and any other policies Induction of new members occurs regarding good governance WLG operates within its financial means
Actively look for opportunities to partner or seek funding from government and non-government (eg philanthropic) sources	Actively monitor funding opportunities from government or non-government sources and have concept projects from other objectives ready to go.	Strong partnerships are formed Successful receipt of funds from outside of normal sources are achieved and managed

The Wooragee Landcare community

The Wooragee Landcare group was established in 1989 and is one of the oldest groups in the North East of Victoria. The groups catchment covers the area of Wooragee and Woolshed Falls as depicted in Figure 1. The Wooragee Landcare falls within the Ovens Landcare Network geographic area and is supported part-time by a Landcare Coordinator via the Mid Ovens Landcare Consortium.

While there are still primary producers in the area on larger holdings, there has been a change over the years towards hobby / lifestyle farms and therefore a reduction in size of some farming properties and an increase in residents.

Figure 1: Area covered by Wooragee Landcare Group



Governance

The Wooragee Landcare is a voluntary community group registered as an Incorporated Association and Environmental Charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status. It maintains a constitution and operates under a governance structure of a Committee that is elected at each Annual Meeting and consists of 4 office bearers and minimum of 4 executive members:

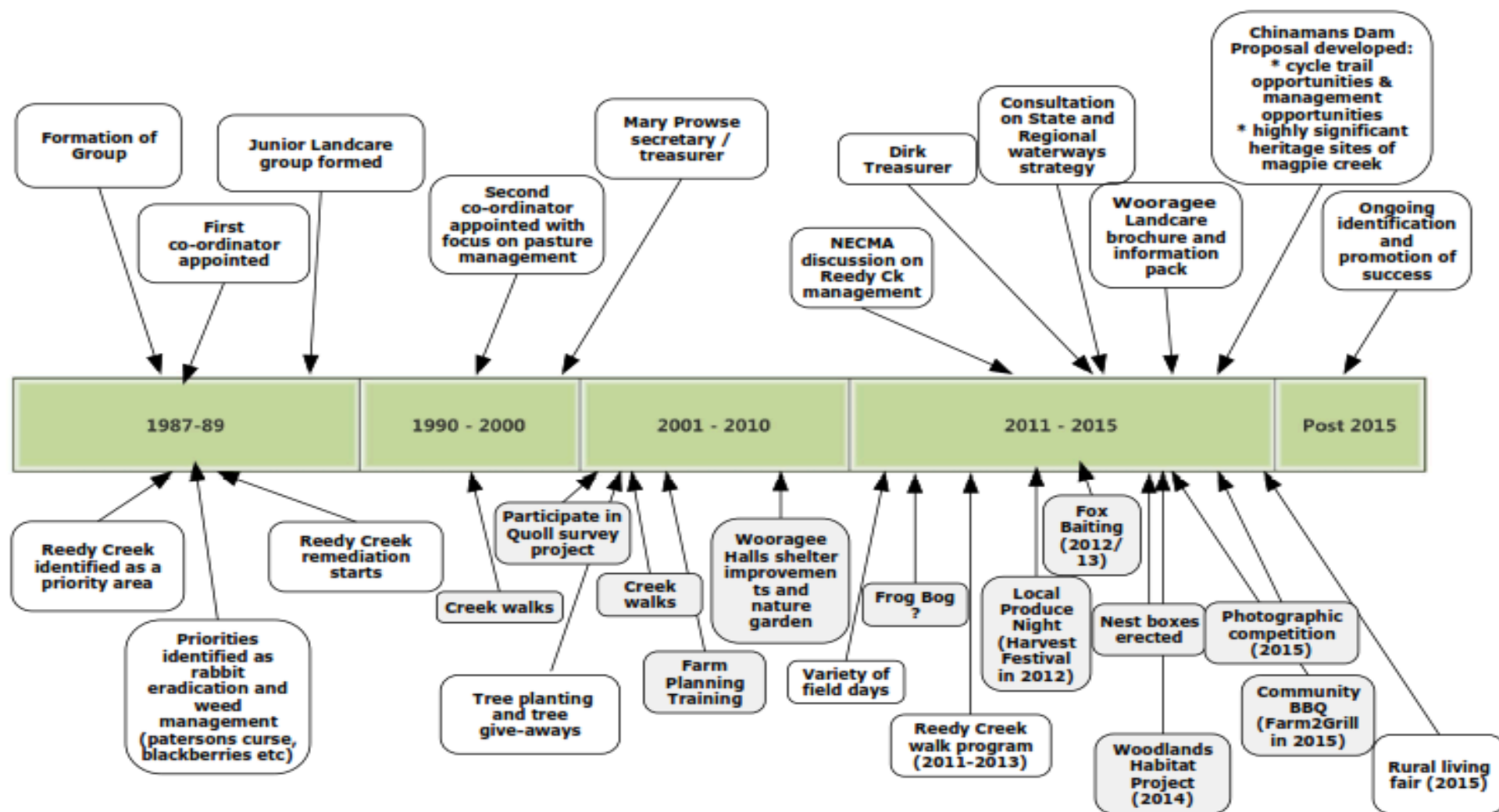
- President
- 1 Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 4 executive members

The committee meets every 2nd month and meetings have an agenda and are minuted. Records are stored in a Google Not-for-profit account accessible by all Committee members. A group email is used committee@woorageelandcare.org.au that ensures all emails are recorded. A website is used for education, promotion and marketing; www.woorageelandcare.org.au

Snapshot of the history

Figure 2 provides just a brief snapshot of the history of the Wooragee Landcare group up until 2015..

Figure 2: Snapshot of the history of the Wooragee Landcare Group



Understanding our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

The following was identified with the Landcare Committee and will be applied across all the strategies so that we can maximise the group's strengths and external opportunities and manage our weaknesses and external pressures.

	To use or maximise:	To reduce or manage:
Internal (to Wooragee Landcare)	What we do well • a regular newsletter and online presence • dedicated core group of people who all contribute • diverse members on the committee who are enthusiastic and bring new ideas • mix of community functions, workshops with varied speakers and interesting field days • use of modern technology • publication of events • strategic direction and priorities • engagement with junior landcare	What could we improve • engage more with land managers • more community events to encourage membership - particularly young and new community members • grant applications • with proper support we could run more on-ground events to promote community participation • plan for licensed areas
External (to Wooragee Landcare)	Opportunities • to attract or seek funding from other sources (eg non-government) • to partner with other organisations	Pressures • lack of support / information from government advisers • volunteers have less time • reduction in grant funding • reduced coordination time • volunteers needing to do more 'work' they don't want to do • bureaucracy and process related to every aspect, particularly grants

Using the Strategic Plan

The Wooragee Landcare Committee will use this Strategic Plan to guide the direction and priorities for Wooragee Landcare into the future.

The yearly Calendar of Events should be developed in line with this Strategic Plan.

To implement the Strategic Plan the Committee has responsibility for coordinating activity and input across Wooragee Landcare and reporting progress / issues back at committee meetings. While the Committee will take leadership in the implementation of the plan, it is not exclusive to the Committee and therefore Wooragee Landcare members will be invited to participate in its implementation.

It is acknowledged that the work undertaken under each of the objectives should not happen in isolation and opportunities will be made to coordinate activities across the different objectives.

The committee will review and document annually at the meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting:

- Progress including what is working well and what could be improved
- Content of the strategic and action plans to ensure they are still current