



Landcare  
Victoria Inc.

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC.**

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Landcare Victoria Inc.  
represents community  
landcare in Victoria.

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**Note:** Landcare Victoria Inc. has adopted the practice of referring to the Committee of Management established under the Rules of Association as the Board. Committee of Management members are referred to as directors.



# About Landcare Victoria Inc.

## WHO WE ARE

Landcare Victoria Inc. is the peak body for landcare in Victoria, representing around 600 Member Groups and over 17,000 household and individual members.

Landcare Victoria Inc. is governed by a volunteer Committee of Management (also known as the Board) which oversees and steers the organisation by setting strategic direction and providing governance.

Our Members Council represents community landcare in Victoria, advising on policy and landcare issues and assist in two-way communication between Landcare Victoria Inc. and community landcare.

Landcare Victoria Inc. is managed by a dedicated small team of staff who carry out the day-to-day operations of the organisation, providing advice to the Board and implementing the strategic goals of the organisation.



600+

Member Groups



17,000+

households



60,000

individuals

## OUR VALUES

Our values reflect the values of the Victorian landcare community:



**Grounded**

in the community and knowledge of local landscapes.



**Empowering**

individuals and communities to make a positive difference to their local landscapes.



**Respectful**

of the knowledge of diverse groups of people with a connection to the land, including First Nations people.



**Collaborative**

in our approach to achieving outcomes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



We pay our respect to the Traditional Owners of the lands in Victoria. We take inspiration from the legacy of Victorian Aboriginal people, who have produced food, while caring for the ecological systems that life depends upon, for tens of thousands of years.

# Delivering on our strategic goals

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Landcare Victoria Inc. is guided by our strategic plan, which was finalised in early 2022.

This established three primary goals for Landcare Victoria Inc.:



**A Strong Voice for Victorian Landcare**



**A Thriving and Resilient Landcare Community**



**A Healthy Organisation**

The strategic plan is the framework for our business activities.

Implementation highlights for the year include:

- We engaged **more than 500 people as part of the development of the Landcare Plan for Victoria**, which will be finalised by June 2023
- We launched a **new website in May 2022**, which continues to develop and grow to suit our audience
- We delivered **events to over 400 people**, as part of the Advancing Landcare Pilot Project
- We developed a **fundraising platform on our website**, to allow for tax deductible donations to Landcare Victoria Inc., as well as for Member Groups as part of the Landcare Victoria Fund
- Along with national and State landcare partners we **secured \$1.3M funding for implementation of the New Futures for Victorian Landcare Project** over the next three years
- On behalf of our unincorporated members, we auspiced grants to the value of around **\$1M ensuring that community-led landcare projects can continue under a strong legal framework**

# Chair's report

Since our emergence from the pandemic, it seems the landcare community has been working at whirlwind pace making up for lost time, the same can be said for the team at Landcare Victoria Inc.

Landcare is social action, we work within our networks to engage members to identify local environmental priorities, the myriad of projects going on at any one time across the state is both diverse and breathtaking in scale. Together we make an enormous contribution to the health and restoration of our landscapes, waterways and coasts.

At Landcare Victoria Inc., it is our privilege to work in support of your efforts and our core purpose is to facilitate the work of our Member Groups and their volunteers and project staff. Whether it is providing capacity building workshops or advocating with government and other key partners to build on their support for the landcare community, our goal is to achieve a strong and stable landcare system that is properly resourced and recognised by partners and the wider community.

Our demands on your time have been considerable over the past 12 months as we implement core pieces of our Strategic Plan. I particularly thank you for your time in supporting Landcare Victoria Inc.'s development of the Victorian Landcare Plan and our constitutional reform.

It is good governance practice to ensure your organisation's constitution is fit for purpose. Landcare Victoria Inc.'s strategic agenda has grown, as has our membership and we recognise that our rules need to evolve to ensure we can manage organisational risk and effectively support our members. We have been working on our constitutional reform with the support of project manager Belinda Brennan and legal expert Elizabeth Shalders of Mills Oakley and will seek our members support to adopt a new constitution later in the year.

I have been excited by the engagement of members and partners and their interest in the Victorian Landcare Plan consultation process. This important project will map the future development of landcare in Victoria and is an opportunity for the Landcare community to develop a collective and coordinated response to the opportunities and challenges ahead. The final report will be out in June 2023 and we look forward to supporting the implementation of your vision.

Sharing knowledge is at the heart of landcare and the enthusiasm among the Landcare community to learn and adapt has been demonstrated by the strong attendance at the series of online workshops Landcare Victoria Inc. has been running as part of the Advancing Landcare Pilot Program made possible through the generous support of RE Ross Trust. We are excited by your interest and plan to continue delivering information and training sessions to our members.

The annual Victorian Landcare Forum was finally held in Beechworth on 23-25 March, it was wonderful to see everyone again and enjoy the enthusiastic and collegiate vibe that is always present. A big thank you to the North East Landcare community for hosting the forum and for sharing some of your work and beautiful scenery on the Saturday tour, we also acknowledge the great support from the North East Catchment Management Authority.

The government funding outlook looks bleak with both State and Federal Governments adjusting their budgets to accommodate the lingering effects of the pandemic. Landcare Victoria Inc. continues to develop new partnerships, to diversify our own funding and that of the landcare community. Support from The Ian Potter Foundation and the Natural Resources Conservation Trust for the New Futures for Victorian Landcare project has enabled us to partner with other NRM organisation's to delve into the opportunities for Landcare in the emerging green finance market. Thanks to the Landscape Finance Lab, Australian National University's Sustainable Farms and Regen Farmers Mutual for joining us on this ambitious project.

Landcare is social action, we work within our networks to engage members to identify local **environmental priorities**, the myriad of projects going on at any one time across the state is both diverse and breathtaking in scale.



Through my role as the Victorian representative on the National Landcare Network (NLN) board, I hear about the work of the other state and territory landcare organisations. Each of us have our own strengths and are at varying stages of maturity and capacity, together we are a powerful representative voice for the landcare community. The NLN has a key role advocating on behalf of the landcare community with the Australian Government and has been working hard to positively influence the May budget and the next version of the National Landcare Program. State and territory landcare organisations currently receive government funding through the NLN to support community landcare.

Looking ahead, there is reason to be optimistic. The new Australian Government has adopted an energetic approach to environmental protection and management, creating new funding opportunities in a positive policy context for landcare. We recognise there will be opportunities for landcarers to participate in the nature positive and carbon markets and will endeavour to provide our members with factual and unbiased information to assist your decision making.

I would like to acknowledge and extend my sincere thanks to our partners. The generous philanthropic support from the Rendere Trust (Phillipson family) and Upotipotpon Foundation (Crothers family) over the last three years has underpinned the growth in our capacity and led to many of our new initiatives. This support has facilitated the development of important new relationships and helped us build stronger partnerships. We are grateful for the financial support of the Ross Trust, Ian Potter Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Trust and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate

Action (DEECA) to strengthen capacity of grassroots landcare and continue to work cooperatively with them to support the success of the Landcare program.

We have many other important partners with a critical role in building our capacity and deliver positive shared outcomes for the environment. The work of our members is closely entwined with that of the Victorian Catchment Management Authorities, and we continue to support that valued collaboration. Some examples of our partnerships are detailed later in this report.

My sincere thanks to Landcare Victoria Inc. staff who are all devoted to supporting the Landcare cause. We welcomed Sarah Vella in October 2022 and she immediately made a very positive impact on our communications and engagement capacity. Ana Pimenta joined the team in September 2022, and since then, she has been busy delivering the Advancing Landcare Pilot Program. To Andrew Maclean, Claire Hetzel and Amanda Grace for holding down the fort during some tough times, we are now seeing the results of your hard work to grow the organisation's capacity and service delivery.

Like all active landcare groups, Landcare Victoria Inc. has a very hard-working Board and I take this opportunity to thank them all on your behalf for the many voluntary hours they commit to their roles. In particular, I note the contribution of Debbie Shea from Glenelg Hopkins and Danny Pettingill (Professional Landcarer) who are stepping down from their Board positions and who have both made considerable impact to our strategic progress.

**Jane Carney**  
Chairperson

# Operations report

## A strong voice for Victorian landcare Our advocacy for landcare



### National Landcare Program

The National Landcare Program is a key source of funding for the landcare community. The current funding round is ending in mid-2023. In collaboration with other states and territories, through our participation in the National Landcare Network, Landcare Victoria Inc. is advocating for better outcomes for landcare, pointing out that it is time to invest in the people who do the work on the ground. The National Landcare Network has delivered a direct ask to the Australian Government, seeking \$50 million per year to be invested directly into community landcare over five years. With landcare's proven track record, this investment means a return to regional communities of up to \$350 million.

### National coordination and collaboration for landcare

Australia has two landcare organisations operating at a national level. The National Landcare Network (NLN) is the representative body for the landcare movement across Australia. Landcare Victoria Inc. is among its members. Landcare Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation that supports the landcare movement. Landcare Victoria Inc. has advised both organisations that it believes landcare in Australia would be best served by the establishment of a single national landcare entity that is accountable to the landcare community. To help further this, during 2022, Landcare Victoria Inc. Chair Jane Carney served on a working group exploring the development of a collaboration agreement between the two organisations that would combine and coordinate the respective strengths and roles of the two organisations as a step towards some form of unification. Regrettably, agreement could not be reached, but Landcare Victoria Inc. will continue to support development of a single national organisation.

### Landcare Facilitator Program

The Victorian Government's Landcare Facilitator Program plays a vital role in the success of Victorian landcare. A study commissioned by Landcare Victoria Inc. in 2020 demonstrated that the facilitator program generates at least seven dollars in public value for every dollar the government invests. Although the present funding commitment remains in place until mid-2024, Landcare Victoria Inc. has written to DEECA proposing a discussion about how the program might be improved for mutually beneficial outcomes on the expectation that there will be a successor from mid-2024. This remains a key theme in ongoing engagement with DEECA. Landcare Victoria Inc. has also provided feedback on the Regional Landcare Coordinator Program, noting that these positions, hosted by Catchment Management Authorities, play a key role in the success of landcare, and proposing a number of potential improvements to the program.

### Victorian Landcare Plan

Landcare Victoria Inc. is committed to developing a plan for Victorian community landcare that will **establish directions for our movement over the next decade and beyond**. This is the first time a movement-wide strategic plan has been attempted using a community-driven consultative approach.

Work began on the plan in early 2022 with an extensive consultation program, culminating in the release of a consultation report in June 2022. During the engagement program, 102 individuals participated in workshops and interviews and 211 individuals participated in an online survey.

With funding support from the Victorian Government, the next phase of the project commenced in the second half of 2022, engaging again with the landcare community to gain feedback and agreement on strategic priorities. During late 2022 and early 2023, another round of workshops and an online survey obtained feedback from 199 respondents.

The plan is in the late stage of development and is due for completion in June 2023.

### National Landcare Conference

Victorian landcare was well represented at the National Landcare Conference held in Sydney during August 2022. The conference heard presentations about the work being undertaken by Landcare Victoria Inc. members, GeckoClan, Southern Otway Landcare Network, Tambo Bluff Landcare Group, Westernport Biosphere Reserve Foundation, and Global Landcare. Victorian landcarers were also represented on panels and chaired one of the conference stream sessions.



### New Futures for Victorian Landcare Project

During 2022, Landcare Victoria Inc., in partnership with Regen Farmers Mutual, ANU Sustainable Farms and the Landscape Finance Lab, received funding commitments to the value of \$1.3M from the Ian Potter Foundation and the Natural Resources Conservation Trust to support the New Futures for Victorian Landcare Project. The three-year project aims to support the participation of the landcare community in emerging green finance markets. These markets are already large and growing and seeking high quality landscape scale projects.

New Futures for Victorian Landcare will pursue solutions to important challenges faced by landcare including the need to:

- **Develop new pathways for investment** beyond grant-based project funding;
- **Initiate planning processes** that mobilise local knowledge and enable effective on-ground action by volunteer community landcarers; and
- **Establish systems** for monitoring, evaluation and communication that demonstrate environmental impact and social change.

Detailed project planning commenced in late 2022 with delivery to commence in mid 2023.

# Operations report Cont.

## Victorian State Election

The 2022 Victorian State election provided an important focus for our advocacy on behalf of the Victorian landcare community. The Board, in consultation with the Members Council prepared **Building a Strong Future for Victorian Landcare** recommending policy priorities for consideration by Victorian political parties. This identified four main priorities and funding requests for the following term of government:

- Support and expand the Landcare Facilitator Program to better support the landcare community (**\$40M**)
- Unlock community resources to achieve our biodiversity goals (**\$3.6M**)
- Back our landcare volunteers with the grant funding they need to achieve government and community goals (**\$30M**)
- Partner with landcare to achieve sustainable land management and resilient community goals (**\$9.2M**)

In the lead up to the election, Landcare Victoria Inc. briefed Ministers and Opposition Spokespeople in the ALP, Liberal, National and Greens parties.

## Representation

An important function for Landcare Victoria Inc. is to represent the interests of the landcare community in state and national forums, where we can inform policy and planning processes and ensure landcare is informed of policy developments. Examples of Landcare Victoria Inc. representation includes:

- Landcare Victoria Inc. Chair, **Jane Carney** is a member of the National Landcare Network Board.
- Landcare Victoria Inc. Board Member **Beth Ripper** OAM chairs the National Landcare Network Members Council. Board Members **Leanne Jackman** and **Andrea Montgomery** are members of the Council.
- Landcare Victoria Inc. Board Member, **Paul Foreman** is a member of the Commissioner for the Environment Reference Group, and CEO **Andrew Maclean** is on the Technical Working Group for the next State of the Environment Report.
- Landcare Victoria Inc. Board Member, **Debbie Shea**, represents landcare on the VFF Land Management Committee.
- CEO **Andrew Maclean** is a member of the Biosecurity Reference Group that is working with Agriculture Victoria on the development of new biosecurity policy and legislation for Victoria.
- CEO **Andrew Maclean** is a member of the Riparian Forum that advises DEECA on riparian management.

## Partnerships

Landcare Victoria Inc. values the partnerships it develops with other organisations. Some are structured and formal and some less so. Some are enduring organisational-level partnerships and others are based on project development and delivery.

Examples of some of the important partnerships during 2022 are:

**Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA):** Landcare Victoria Inc. has established a very positive partnership with the Department, coordinating landcare communication, capacity development and strategy. DEECA's funding support for these partnerships plays a very important role in maintaining Landcare Victoria Inc. capacity.

**Agriculture Victoria:** Landcare Victoria Inc. has been collaborating with Agriculture Victoria in support of new biosecurity policy for the State. It is an opportunity to highlight opportunities for improved engagement of the landcare community in achieving shared biosecurity goals.

**Catchment Management Authorities:** With funding support from DEECA and the Australian Government, CMAs play a vital role in support of landcare. Landcare Victoria Inc. continued to develop positive working relationships with the CMAs in each region and collectively, through an MOU with VicCatchments. At the national scale, Landcare Victoria Inc. was an active contributor to the National Statement of Collaboration Principles that guides the relationship between community landcare and the NRM regional bodies.

**Greening Australia:** Landcare Victoria Inc. partnered with Greening Australia and Landcare Australia in the development of a proposal to the Victorian Government Bushbank program. The proposal combined the strengths of the three organisations, and aimed to ensure community landcare has a supported role in the implementation of this large program. Although unsuccessful, the project development process establishes a foundation for future collaborations.

**Landcare Australia:** As well as collaborating with Landcare Australia in the Bushbank program proposal, Landcare Victoria Inc. supported project communications in the Landcare Farming project being delivered by Landcare Australia, in partnership with the National Landcare Network.

**ANU Sustainable Farms:** Landcare Victoria Inc. and interstate counterparts collaborated with ANU Sustainable Farms in the development of a drought resilience funding proposal focussing on enhancement of farm dams. The project development approach demonstrates a new way of Landcare Victoria Inc. developing statewide-scale partnerships that would relieve Member Groups of some of the project application and reporting burdens they often carry. ANU Sustainable Farms is also a partner in the New Futures for Victorian Landcare project.

**Landscape Finance Lab:** Landcare Victoria Inc. is working with the Vienna-based Landscape Finance Lab in the New Futures for Victorian Landcare Project.

**Regen Farmers Mutual:** Landcare Victoria Inc. is collaborating with Regen Farmers Mutual in the New Futures for Victorian Landcare project.

**Royal Society of Victoria:** Landcare Victoria Inc. was pleased to have the opportunity to participate in a cross-sectoral forum that contributed to the development of the Royal Society of Victoria's Position Paper: Towards Conservation & Recovery of Victoria's Biodiversity – Report for Changemakers. The paper highlighted the importance of landcare.

**Country Fire Authority:** Landcare Victoria Inc. and the CFA share an interest in building community capacity and resilience in relation to bushfire, including the challenge of ensuring safe practices and securing insurance. An informal working group, also involving DEECA, is addressing the issues.

**Victorian Environment Friends Network:** Landcare Victoria Inc. and VEFN continued to meet to share information and promote alignment in our shared interest in environmental volunteering. A shared issue of continuing concern is bureaucratic obstacles that dampen participation in volunteering.



## A thriving and resilient landcare community

### Support for Member Groups



#### Member engagement

Landcare Victoria Inc. Board members and staff have taken every opportunity to meet with Member Groups in their regions throughout 2022, through both online meeting technology, as well as connecting in person.

The CEO and staff have actively sought opportunities to meet Member Groups in their regions to discuss project delivery and strategic issues. Regions visited in the reporting period include Corangamite, North East, Glenelg Hopkins, West Gippsland and Port Phillip and Westernport (Melbourne Water). In addition to the formal member engagement structures, regionally based directors remain actively engaged in their landcare communities, to ensure they maintain awareness of issues and opportunities.

More than 500 people have been engaged in the development of the Landcare Plan in 2022 and early 2023, through online workshops and surveys. Member Groups have also been actively engaged in Landcare Victoria Inc.'s Rules Review. The Advancing Landcare Pilot begun in October 2022, and has delivered both in-person and online workshops, on topics such as fundraising, recruiting new volunteers, understanding committee roles and responsibilities and succession planning. More than 400 people have taken part in workshops during the reporting period.

The 2022 National Landcare Conference was held in Sydney on 23-25 August, with Victoria well represented, both online and in person. The conference provided an important opportunity for Victorians to connect with other landcarers from across the country, as well as to give presentations about their ideas and achievements to a national audience.

#### Members Council

Landcare Victoria Inc. continues its commitment to facilitate the operation of an effective Members Council. It comprises up to five members from each of the 10 catchment regions and provides a forum for identification of emerging landcare issues and provides advice about how these might be resolved or progressed to the Board and Landcare Victoria Inc. staff. In the reporting period, the Members Council has been called upon to provide advice to the Board and Landcare Victoria Inc. staff on the development of the Landcare Plan, the Rules Review, and engaged in advocacy work relating to state and national policy issues.

#### Landcare Forums

In March 2023, Landcare Victoria Inc. hosted the Landcare Professionals Forum and the Victorian Landcare Forum in Beechworth, in the state's North East region. These events attracted around **180 people across the three days of events.**

The Landcare Professionals Forum provided an opportunity to engage with valuable learning opportunities and network with other landcare professionals from across the state. The Victorian Landcare Forum enabled landcarers to share knowledge and experience, to meet others directly involved in landcare and to see first-hand the achievements of landcare in the North East.

These forums promote peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and learning, through both formal sessions and informal networking opportunities. They also provide input to Landcare Victoria Inc.'s policy and advocacy work, via structured mechanisms, such as the Members Council meeting and less formally via communication between Landcare Victoria Inc. members, staff, Board and stakeholders.

#### Auspiced Grants

A benefit of membership with Landcare Victoria Inc. is that Member Groups are able to request grant sponsorship, or 'auspice' support for landcare related activities. This member benefit is of particular value to the 350+ unincorporated groups affiliated with Landcare Victoria Inc. who administer grant contracts and funds on their behalf.

Around 30 Member Groups took advantage of this service during 2022. **The total value of grants auspiced in 2022 was \$990,469**, indicating the extent and value of this role.

Significant auspiced projects running in 2022 include the Bethanga Landcare Group's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery 3-Halls Refurbishment project, Panyyabyr Landcare Group's Future Drought Fund program, Mallee Conservation's Nature Fund initiative, and Ultima Landcare Groups Sustainability Victoria waste recycling program.

#### Funds administered by Landcare Victoria Inc. under grant auspicing arrangements (1 January 2021 – 31 December 2022)

	2021	2022
Grant Funds received	\$1,001,387	\$990,469
Funds disbursed to Member Groups	\$1,001,387	\$989,019
Balance	\$0	\$1,450

#### Insurance

A critical role for Landcare Victoria Inc. is to organise insurance for the Landcare Victoria Inc. incorporated association. The organisation obtains three policies, including: public liability, voluntary workers personal accident, and association liability, with premium and management costs distributed among financial Member Groups of the Association.

Cover for 2022/23 was again obtained through AON insurance and despite a general upward trend in premiums, the insurance program was renewed with a small decrease in insurance premiums paid by Landcare Victoria Inc. compared to the previous year, arising from improved data quality obtained through the Member Group census.

The insurance coverage sought covers a range of landcare and related activities expected to be generally relevant to most landcare groups. Cover for fire related activities remains a challenge which Landcare Victoria Inc. is working to solve. Removing this systemic barrier to Member Groups engaging with Traditional Owner organisations in support of cultural fire activities, and in undertaking other cool burn programs, is challenging but important work.

No new claims were lodged during 2022.

#### Landcare Victoria Inc. insurance premiums and claims activity

	2021	2022
Insurance Premium	\$72,555	\$62,438
New Claims Made	0	0

# Operations report Cont.

## Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Project

The Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Program funded by the Australian Government to support environmental and community recovery following the 2020 Black Summer fires came to an end in mid-2022. **The program funded landcare projects to the value of \$1.826 million in Victoria** and a further \$2.83 million to other organisations, often working in close partnership with landcare groups. Importantly, the program demonstrated the capacity of the landcare sector to develop and implement a large scale program, and the benefit of national and state coordination in program delivery. Landcare Victoria Inc.'s primary role was in support for landcare organisations during the planning, implementation and reporting and to support project communications.

## Advancing Landcare Pilot Project

Landcare Victoria's Advancing Landcare Pilot Program, which is co-funded by DEECA and The Ross Trust, aims to build capacity of professional landcarers and Member Groups.

The program was built based on two surveys, the Landcare Professional Skills and Knowledge Survey and the Community Skills and Knowledge Survey, and in consultation with stakeholders. The Landcare Professional Skills and Knowledge Survey also resulted in a framework for professional landcarers, including a self-assessment tool.

The Pilot Program, which began in October 2022, will deliver a series of four workshops and eight webinars, as well as written materials. The topics for each webinar and workshop have been based on the survey results.

Workshops, both in-person and online, have so far been held on topics such as fundraising, recruiting new volunteers and inspiring young people to volunteer, understanding committee roles and responsibilities and succession planning. Most events have been fully booked, and the feedback has been positive.

Landcare Victoria Inc. is aiming to secure more funding to continue this Program into the future.



## Impacts of COVID 19

Government imposed restrictions on business and movement substantially eased from the beginning of 2022, allowing Landcare Victoria Inc. and its members return to normal operations. Although movement controls were eased, a substantial increase in infections in the community sometimes interfered with events and meetings or project delivery, with key personnel absent due to illness or quarantine, or caring for unwell family members. Landcare Victoria Inc. staff and volunteers remain vigilant about mitigating the risk of COVID infection. Landcare Victoria Inc. and many Member Groups have maintained a mandatory vaccination policy for staff, contractors and board members and disinfection and other controls remain in place for face-to-face events.

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**A positive legacy of the COVID pandemic has been widespread uptake of online communication that in many respects is facilitating improved communication in the landcare community and the adoption of new patterns of workplace attendance and collaboration.**

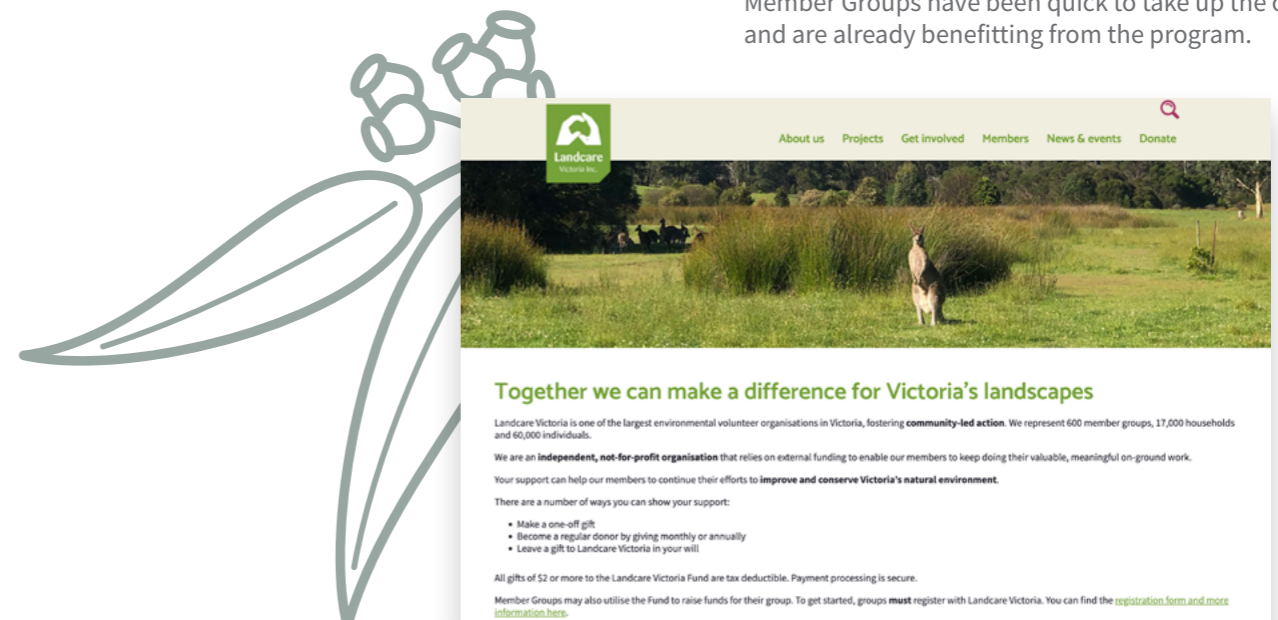
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## Communications

Continuing the efforts to improve the communications capacity of the organisation, Landcare Victoria Inc. appointed a full time Communications and Engagement Coordinator in October 2022. This role is widely recognised as being strategically important to the future of landcare. Landcare Victoria Inc.'s social media channels continue to be managed in collaboration with, and with funding support from DEECA, which includes Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. The Landcare Victoria Inc. website has been updated to improve usability and relevance to the landcare community and it now also provides a platform for donations. Further updates and improvements are planned, to ensure it remains a useful source of information for the landcare community. The monthly newsletter, which is emailed to Landcare Victoria Inc. Member Groups and stakeholders, continues to evolve to better suit audience needs. Feedback received on these changes has been positive. The upgrade and enhancement of these aspects of communications infrastructure will allow for more effective communications in the years ahead.

## Landcare Victoria Fund

Landcare Victoria Inc. achieved Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status in September 2021, which enables the Landcare Victoria Fund to provide a facility for tax deductible donations in support of landcare. A 'Donate' webpage has been established on the Landcare Victoria Inc. website to facilitate fundraising through this platform. Following the establishment of policy, procedures and required management systems, the Landcare Victoria Fund is now available for fundraising by Member Groups, to receive tax deductible donations. Member Groups have been quick to take up the option and are already benefitting from the program.





## A healthy organisation



### Landcare Victoria Inc. Rules Review

Landcare Victoria Inc.'s 2021-2024 Strategic Plan recognised the need to review the rules of the organisation to ensure they meet best practice governance requirements and are fit for purpose for today and the future. Following receipt of legal advice that pointed to several risk management concerns embedded in the existing rules, a discussion paper was released in February 2023 as a basis for a program of member consultation. The review addressed four main issues:

- The Landcare Victoria Inc. Board and Members Council - amendments to the rules to reform the composition and method of appointment of the Management Committee/ Board and strengthen the role of the Members Council.
- The status of unincorporated Member Groups and management of organisational risk associated with these members - under the current rules, Landcare Victoria Inc. indemnifies unincorporated Member Groups but has very limited powers to manage the risks that arise from providing that indemnity.
- Risk management and insurance - in order to properly manage organisational risk associated with the diverse activities of Member Groups, new and amended rules are needed to enable Landcare Victoria Inc. to establish policies and procedures that apply to all Member Groups.
- Membership - clarification and confirmation of who is eligible to be a member of Landcare Victoria Inc. and their rights and responsibilities.

Approval of amended Rules requires member support of a special resolution at a general meeting.

### Fundraising

The Board endorsed a fundraising program for Landcare Victoria Inc. in early 2022. Work in the first year of the program focussed on building capacity in the organisation and pursuit of large project funding grants from government and the formal philanthropy sector. Pursuit of this strategy resulted in new revenue commitments of around \$1.3M and continued funding support from government. The second year of the strategy in 2023 aims to maintain the gains of the first, while pursuing new philanthropic support and donations.

Having achieved Deductible Gift Recipient status in late 2021, Landcare Victoria Inc. established an online donation function through the website and an arrangement that allows Member Groups to utilise the Landcare Victoria Inc. DGR fund to encourage tax deductible donations in their favour. Twenty groups have registered to participate in this arrangement with a steady flow of new registrations.

### National Landcare Awards

The National Landcare Awards were presented by Landcare Australia during the National Landcare Awards Gala Dinner at Sydney's International Convention Centre on 24 August 2022. Landcare Victoria Inc. would like to congratulate the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Narrap Team for winning the KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award. The Narrap Unit has had a significant impact on Natural Resource Management (NRM) within Wurundjeri country by bringing indigenous land management practices back into use, including the reintroduction of cultural burns to the landscape.

### Awards and Honours

Congratulations to Christine Brooke and Julie de Hennin, who were each awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2023 Honours List.

Christine Brooke was recognised for her service to the environment, and to the community. Christine is a former member of the Landcare Victoria Inc. Board (2017-2020). Her involvement with Landcare Victoria Inc. as a Board member and Deputy Chair during its formative years provided the organisation with sound and visionary guidance that substantially contributed to its growth. Christine is also the former Secretary and founding member of Loddon Plains Landcare Network (formerly Loddon Vale Landcare Network) and she is currently the secretary of the Sutton-Grange Landcare Group.

Julie de Hennin was recognised for her service to the community of northern Victoria. Julie is the secretary of the Wises Creek-Talgarno Landcare Group, where she has been a member for 30 years. Julie was also the Inaugural Chair of the Victorian Agribusiness Council (2006-2008) and has previously been on the board of the North East Catchment Management Authority.

### Vale Horrie Poussard OAM

In December 2022, the landcare community was deeply saddened by the loss of Horrie Poussard OAM, who was instrumental in the foundation and establishment of landcare in 1986.

An agricultural scientist, who worked in Australia and overseas as a consultant and soil conservationist, Horrie played a significant role in the development and growth of landcare in Victoria as well as nationally and internationally. While working as a departmental adviser for Conservation, Forests and Lands in 1986, Horrie was chosen to create a community-owned program that encouraged the integrated management of agricultural and private land. He named it Landcare.

The then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Joan Kirner, wanted a community-based environmental program that reflected the multi-disciplinary nature of her department. Horrie and Bob Edgar came up with the idea of a new, more independent, community-based, district-scale, action-oriented entity, and the idea took off. When Horrie ended his stint as Victoria's first State Landcare Coordinator two years later, there were more than 20 groups operating enthusiastically.

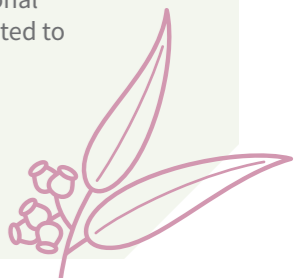
Horrie was the founding Secretary of Australian Landcare International (ALI), which was formed in 2008, and worked closely with Rob Youl to grow the organisation. In October 2020, the three international landcare networks – Secretariat for International Landcare, ALI and Landcare International – united to form Global Landcare, of which Horrie remained an active member.

In June 2021, Horrie was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for service to conservation and the environment.

He will be greatly missed.



Horrie and his wife, Wendy.



# Operations report Cont.

## Directors

Directors who served on the Landcare Victoria Inc. Board during 2022 are as follows.



**Jane Carney**  
Chair  
North East Region



**Terrence Hubbard**  
OAM  
Goulburn Broken Region



**Leanne Jackman**  
Deputy Chair – Operations  
Wimmera Region



**John Birse**  
Appointed 20/5/22  
Port Phillip and Westernport Region



**Paul Foreman**  
Deputy Chair – Partnerships  
North Central Region



**Ric Oldham**  
Appointed 20/5/22  
West Gippsland Region



**Ian Arney**  
Resigned 20/5/22  
Mallee Region



**Michael Walker**  
Resigned 2/3/22  
Port Phillip and Westernport Region



**Beth Ripper**  
OAM (Secretary)  
East Gippsland Region



**Danny Pettingill**  
Professional Landcarer



**Alice Knight**  
OAM  
Corangamite Region



**Kerri Robson**  
Resigned 20/5/22  
Professional Landcarer



**Debbie Shea**  
Glenelg Hopkins Region



**Andrea Montgomery**  
Appointed 20/5/22  
Professional Landcarer



## Members Council

**Kristy Stewart**  
Appointed 28/06/22  
Corangamite Region –  
Professional Landcarer

**Dawn Parker**  
East Gippsland Region

**Lisette Mill**  
Glenelg Hopkins Region -  
Professional Landcarer

**Sandy Mackenzie**  
Goulburn Broken Region

**Annette Lambert**  
Mallee Region -  
Professional Landcarer

**Sandra Nichols**  
North Central Region

**John Rowlands**  
North Central Region

**Julie Hind**  
North East Region

**Jim de Hennin OAM**  
North East Region

**Rowan Wallace**  
North East Region

**Anthony Griffiths**  
Appointed 28/06/22  
North East Region

**Ross Colliver**  
Port Phillip & Westernport Region

**Christine Kilmartin**  
North Central Region

**Robyn Gillespie**  
Port Phillip & Westernport Region

**Susan Anderson**  
Port Phillip & Westernport Region

**Jim Armstrong**  
Port Phillip & Westernport Region

**Peter Devonshire**  
Appointed 28/06/22  
West Gippsland Region

**Ian Hill**  
Appointed 28/06/22  
West Gippsland Region

# Operations report Cont.

## Staff

Landcare Victoria Inc. maintained four salaried positions during the reporting period.



**Andrew Maclean**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Amanda Grace**  
Office Coordinator



**Claire Hetzel**  
Landcare Development Coordinator



**Ana Pimenta**  
Project Officer



**Sarah Vella**  
Communications and Engagement Coordinator

## Contractors and consultants

Landcare Victoria Inc. engaged the following contractors and consultants during the reporting period.

**Projectura**  
Landcare Plan consultation

**Ethical Design Co.**  
Graphic Design Services

**Integr8tiv**  
Database and web design Services

**Infoxchange**  
IT and communications services

**Ends of the Earth Consulting**  
Bookkeeping and financial advice

**Cloud Bookeeping**  
Bookkeeping and financial advice

**Kaizen Synergy Legal Practice**  
COVID advice

**Estuary Consulting**  
Fundraising Support

**The Forever Agenda**  
Landcare Knowledge and Skills framework

**Lewis Holdway Lawyers**  
Advice on association rules

**Brennan Facilitation & Management Services**  
Rules Review



## Funding acknowledgement

We would like to thank the following organisations for their contributions:



Trustees for the Upotipotpon Foundation

# Operations report Cont.

## Key membership statistics

Landcare Victoria Inc. membership remained consistent in 2022, compared to 2021. Expenditure and membership numbers were also relatively constant year on year.

Data collected from the 2022 membership census allows analysis of the nature and incorporation status of Member Groups. Just over half of Landcare Victoria Inc. Member Groups are unincorporated.

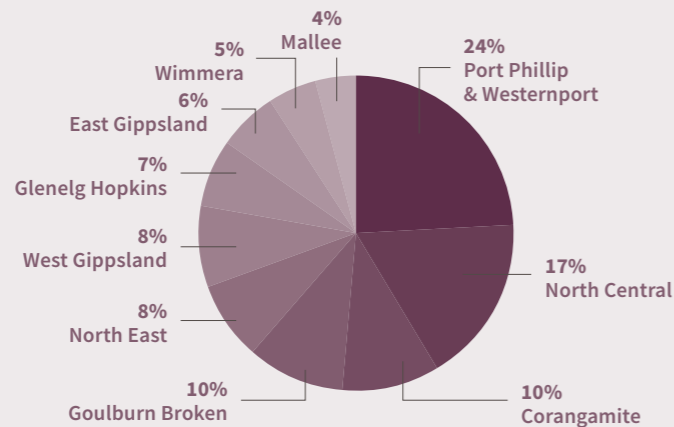
Membership statistics derived from the 2022 Landcare Victoria Inc. census results are presented below (2021 data is from Landcare Victoria Inc. membership records).

*\*2022 data was collected via the Landcare Victoria Inc. Census. Groups that completed the census were not necessarily financial at 31 December.*

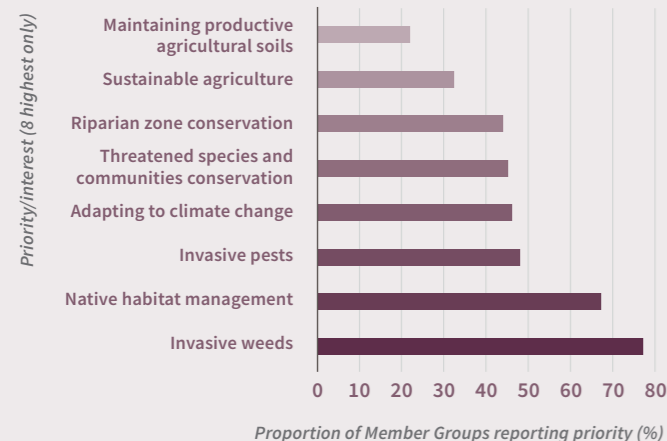
Item	2022	2021
Total Member Groups 31 December*	586	541
Landcare Groups	534	494
Landcare Networks	52	47
Unincorporated Members	299	281
Incorporated Members	287	260
Average reported Member Group expenditure	\$40,294	\$37,085
Average membership reported by Member Groups	36.4	34.4
Average additional non-member volunteers per Member Group	23.5	22.2

## Distribution of member groups by catchment region

Landcare Groups operate throughout Victoria, with the distribution of groups in each region relative to the population of the region.



## Group priorities/interests (next 5 years)



**Native habitat management and tackling invasive weeds and other pests continue to be high priorities for most groups.** While only a quarter of groups reported completing projects addressing climate change recently, it is now a priority that nearly half of groups intend to tackle over the next five years. **Interest in carbon farming has increased** (5% reported recent past projects involving carbon farming, whereas 10% reported it as a top future priority) and **interest in sustainable agriculture has also increased** (24% reported recent past projects, and 32% reported it as a high priority over the next five years).

# Treasurer's report

## INCOME

Total revenue increased by **\$543,316** compared to 2021. Much of this increase can be attributed to the significant increases in donations and grants received to support Landcare Victoria Inc. projects. Combined subscriptions and insurance charges increased by **\$97,203** reflecting the difficult decision made by the Board to increased membership and insurance fees to help ensure the sustainability of Landcare Victoria Inc. The philanthropic support provided by Rendere Trust and Uptopotpon foundation totalled **\$100,000** and remained a very important source of income. 2022 marked the final year of a three-year commitment from these sources that Landcare Victoria Inc. acknowledges with sincere gratitude.

Auspiced grants are an important component of Landcare Victoria Inc. revenue, but these normally have a negligible impact on the operating result as payments to Member Groups matches revenue almost exactly.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### Assets

Assets under Landcare Victoria Inc.'s control increased to **\$1,347,370**.

### Liabilities

Liabilities also increased to **\$773,416**. Most of this is auspiced funds held on behalf of members but not paid out at the date the reports were prepared.

New reserves accounts have been established to hold pre-paid funds for future year project delivery and donations yet to be disbursed from the public (DGR) fund.

## EXPENDITURE

The Committee maintained tight control on expenditure. The largest single expenditure item is staff salaries and wages, which increased slightly, reflecting the growth of the organisation built on project funding. Spending on contractors and consultants increased, also reflecting increased funded project delivery activity. A return to face-to-face meetings in 2022 resulted in an increase in Board costs, but this remains a small item in the context of overall expenditure. Costs associate with information technology are a significant item. Increased expenditure reflects increased activity, including the establishment of the online member census organised in early 2022.

## OPERATING RESULT

The operating result for the year was **\$390,270**. This is the first operating profit achieved for several years. It must be noted that a substantial portion of this is committed to projects to be delivered during 2023 and beyond.



**John Birse**  
Treasurer

# Financial report

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**

**A011936S**

**ABN 69 561 995 226**

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT**

Your Committee Members present their report on the Landcare Victoria Inc for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### **Committee Members**

The names of committee members in office at any time during, or since the end of, the period are:

John Birse	(appointed 20 May, 2022)	Ian Arney	(resigned 20 May, 2022)
Jane Carney		Terrence Hubbard	
Andrea Montgomery	(appointed 20 May, 2022)	Alice Knight	
Kerri Robson	(resigned 20 May, 2022)	Ailsa Beth Ripper	
Ric Oldham	(appointed 20 May, 2022)	Danny Pettingill	
Leanne Jackman		Paul Foreman	
Debbie Shea			

Committee members have been in office since the start of the period to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### **Operating results**

The surplus of the association for the financial year amounted to \$390,270 (2021 \$29,997 deficit).

### **Significant changes in state of affairs**

No significant change in the association's state of affairs occurred during the year.

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year has been to support the LVI Member Groups, including providing insurance packages which provide public liability, voluntary workers and associations liability. There has been no significant change in the nature of the association's activities during the financial year.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
 ABN 69 561 995 226

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT**

**After balance date events**

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2022 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the association's operations, the results of those operations, or the association's state of affairs in future financial years.

**Environmental issues**

The association's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

**Indemnifying Officers or Auditors**

During the year, the association has paid an insurance premium to ensure indemnification of committee members and management. No payments were made to indemnify the association's auditors

**Proceedings on behalf of the Association**

No person has applied for leave of court to bring proceedings on behalf of the association or intervene in any proceeding to which the association is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the association for all or any part of those proceedings. The association was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Committee members.

Committee member



Committee member



Dated this 26th day of April, 2023

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
 ABN 69 561 995 226

**STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	2022	2021
		\$	\$
Revenue	2	2,109,475	1,566,159
Employee benefit expense		(406,171)	(384,130)
Auditors remuneration	4	(4,100)	(3,900)
Lease expense	3	(17,652)	(14,625)
Other expenses	3	(1,291,282)	(1,193,501)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>390,270</u>	<u>(29,997)</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year		<u><u>390,270</u></u>	<u><u>(29,997)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**

**A011936S**

ABN 69 561 995 226

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**AS AT**

**31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	2022	2021
		\$	\$
Cash at bank	5	1,272,489	381,296
Trade and other receivables		31,053	11,896
Prepayments		43,828	43,762
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,347,370</u>	<u>436,954</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>1,347,370</u>	<u>436,954</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	739,965	232,220
Employee benefits	7	33,451	24,594
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>773,416</u>	<u>256,814</u>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	7	7,091	3,547
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>780,507</u>	<u>260,361</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>566,863</u>	<u>176,593</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Surpluses		78,118	15,093
Reserves	10	488,745	161,500
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>566,863</u>	<u>176,593</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**

**A011936S**

ABN 69 561 995 226

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Retained Surpluses	Insurance Reserve	Public Fund	New Futures Reserve	Advancing Landcare Reserve	VLN Landcare Support Staff Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2022</b>	15,093	145,500	-	-	-	16,000	176,593
Total Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the year	390,270	-	-	-	-	-	390,270
Reserve release	-	(104,875)	-	-	-	-	(104,875)
Allocation to (from) Reserves	(327,245)	-	6,648	395,000	30,473	-	104,875
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	<u>78,118</u>	<u>40,625</u>	<u>6,648</u>	<u>395,000</u>	<u>30,473</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>566,863</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC  
A011936S  
ABN 69 561 995 226**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from operations		2,673,584	1,671,540
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,783,053)	(1,626,352)
Interest received		<u>663</u>	<u>317</u>
<b>Net cash proceeds from/(used in) operating activities</b>	5	<u>891,194</u>	<u>45,505</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year</b>		381,296	335,791
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		<u>891,194</u>	<u>45,505</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	5	<u>1,272,489</u>	<u>381,296</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC  
A011936S  
ABN 69 561 995 226**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies**

The financial report covers the entity of Landcare Victoria Inc, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The address of the association's registered office is 24-28 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

**(a) Basis of preparation**

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022 and the Associations Incorporations Reform Regulations 2022. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements, except for cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on the historical cost basis.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the association's functional currency.

**(b) Income tax**

As the incorporated association is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

No provision for income tax is made.

**(c) Leases**

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.



**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
**ABN 69 561 995 226**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies (cont.)**

**(d) Employee benefits**

*Wages and salaries and annual leave*

Liabilities for salaries and wages, including non-monetary benefits, and annual leave expected to be entitled within twelve months of the reporting date are recognised in current liabilities in respect of employees' services up to the reporting time and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

*Long service leave*

The liability for long service leave is recognised in current and non-current liabilities, depending on the unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date. The liability is measured as the value of expected payments should the relevant leave accrued to employees be taken as at balance date. The non-current portion of the liability includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service. In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based on historical data.

**(e) Revenue recognition**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable:

Subscription income is recognised when members are invoiced and are entitled to the associated benefits.

When grant revenue is received with an associated obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

**(f) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
**ABN 69 561 995 226**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2022**

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**(g) Other receivables**

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost less any provision for impairment.

**(h) Trade and other payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the association prior to the end of the financial year end which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and usually paid within thirty days of recognition.

**(i) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted**

Certain new accounting standards have been published that are not mandatory for 31 December 2022 reporting periods. These new standards and interpretations have been assessed by management and determined that they will have little or no impact on the association. AASB 16: Leases, has not been applied as there is a relief exemption, for not-for-profit organisations, from reporting under that Standard. A new Standard relating to Disclosures and Reporting may be applicable for the 2023 year.

**(j) Critical Accounting estimates**

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in Note 11.

The going concern basis is considered to still be appropriate.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
**ABN 69 561 995 226**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>Note 2 : Revenue</b>		
Operating Activities		
Subscriptions and Insurance charges	317,585	220,382
Grants	387,616	233,063
Auspiced Grants Received	990,469	1,001,387
Other income, including Donations	413,142	101,410
Interest – bank deposits	663	317
Government Covid-19 Stimulus and Job-keeper	-	9,600
Total Revenue	<u>2,109,475</u>	<u>1,566,159</u>
<b>Note 3: Expenses</b>		
Rental expense on operating leases		
- Minimum lease payments	17,652	14,625
Other expenses from ordinary activities		
Administrative expenses	36,849	21,671
Forum Expenses	1,216	3,648
Auspiced Grants Paid	989,019	1,001,387
Communication Expenses	3,290	1,762
Contractors/Consultants/Temp Staff	100,394	20,486
Meeting Expenses and Committee Members		
Reimbursements	20,685	10,706
Sponsorships/Donations	300	1,818
Insurance	62,348	72,555
IT Expenses	77,055	59,419
Sundry Expenses	126	49
Total other expenses	<u>1,291,282</u>	<u>1,193,501</u>
<b>Note 4: Auditors Remuneration</b>		
Remuneration of the Auditor for:		
Auditing the financial report	4,100	3,900

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
**ABN 69 561 995 226**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Note 5: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank	<u>1,272,489</u>	<u>381,296</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net surplus/(deficit) after tax to net cash flows from operations</b>		
Net surplus/(deficit)	390,270	(29,997)
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>		
(Increase)/Decrease in trade receivables	(16,245)	3,142
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Debtors	(2,912)	(5,590)
(Increase)/Decrease in prepayments	(66)	(2,427)
Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables	507,745	62,763
Increase/(Decrease) in provision for employee entitlements	12,402	17,614
	<u>891,194</u>	<u>45,505</u>
<b>Note 6 : Trade and other payables</b>		
Trade payables and accruals	548,225	75,975
Premium Funding - Insurance	28,585	27,919
GST payable	27,649	20,123
Grant funds under management	127,282	99,979
Deposits re Memberships	8,224	8,224
	<u>739,965</u>	<u>232,220</u>

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
A011936S  
ABN 69 561 995 226

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2022

**Note 6: Trade and other payables (Cont.)**

(i) Movement in Grant Funds Under Management

	Opening Balance	Grants Repaid	Received/invoiced during the year	Taken to Income*	Closing balance
DELWP – Collaboration 2021/22	92,929	-	-	(92,929)	-
DELWP – Collaboration 2022/23	-	-	163,094	(51,828)	111,266
Landcare Australia Ltd – Farming Stories	-	-	18,016	(2,000)	16,016
Other Grant Funding	7,050	(7,050)	240,859	(240,859)	-
	<u>99,979</u>	<u>(7,050)</u>	<u>421,969</u>	<u>(387,616)</u>	<u>127,282</u>

\* Figures do not include project co-contributions by LVI

**Note 7 : Employee Benefits**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current:		
Annual Leave	33,451	24,594
Non-current:		
Long Service Leave	7,091	3,547

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
A011936S  
ABN 69 561 995 226

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2022

**Note 8 : Key Management Personnel compensation**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Compensation to key management personnel	196,748	192,804

**Note 9 : Related party transactions**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Transactions with related parties		
Remuneration/Honoraria received by all Committee members	9,000	-

**Note 10 : Reserves**

**Insurance reserve**

Insurance reserve Excess Pool	40,625	55,500
Insurance reserve Claims Incurred	-	90,000
(i)	<u>40,625</u>	<u>145,500</u>

**New Futures Reserve**

	395,000	-
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**Project Reserves**

Public Fund	(iii) 6,649	
Advancing Landcare Reserve	(ii) 30,472	
VLN Landcare Support Staff	(ii) 16,000	16,000
	<u>53,121</u>	<u>16,000</u>

**Total reserves**

	<u>488,746</u>	<u>161,500</u>
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**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
**ABN 69 561 995 226**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2022**

**(i) Insurance reserve**

Under the terms of Landcare Victoria Inc's agreement with its members to provide insurance, an event, of which the Association has not yet been informed, may have occurred which will result in a future outflow of funds. The committee has created a reserve to cover two types of potential obligations arising which are: excesses payable on claims made, which are self-insured, and future events incurred for which claims have not yet been made. The value of the reserve has been determined using the history of claims and the experience and judgement of the committee members.

**(ii) Project Reserves**

**VLN Landcare Support Staff**

This reserve recognises the fund established by the merger of predecessor organisations Victorian Landcare Council and Victorian Landcare Network in 2012.

**Advancing Landcare Reserve**

This reserve holds funds provided by the RE Ross Trust during 2020 that will support delivery of the Advancing Landcare Project

**(iii) The Public Fund**

This fund is the Victorian Landcare Fund that receives tax deductible donations

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
**ABN 69 561 995 226**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Note 11: Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other factors, including expectations of future events management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

*Long service leave provision*

As discussed in note 1, the liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC**  
**A011936S**  
**ABN 69 561 995 226**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS' DECLARATION**

In the opinion of the Committee the financial report:

- 1) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Landcare Victoria Inc. as at 31 December 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2022 and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations).
  
- 2) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Landcare Victoria Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for on behalf of the Committee by:

Chairperson



Treasurer



Dated this

26th day of April, 2023

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**To the members of Landcare Victoria Inc**  
**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Landcare Victoria Inc., which comprises Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to the Accounts and Committee Members' Declaration for the period ended 31 December 2022.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Landcare Victoria Inc gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Landcare Victoria Inc as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

**Basis for opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2022 (Vic)*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2022* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting**

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2022 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2022*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

**Responsibility of the Committee of Management for the Financial Report**

The Committee of Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2022 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2022* and for such internal control as the Committee of Management determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Committee of Management are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Committee of Management is responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report, as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that audits conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with Committee of Management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



**Rob Florence, FCPA**

**Florence Audit & Assurance**  
97 Mair Street East  
BALLARAT VIC 3350

Dated: 27th April, 2023

# Notes

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**Landcare**  
Victoria Inc.

## CONTACT US

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