



Landcare
Victoria Inc.



Annual Report

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC.

2025

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the lands in Victoria.

We are inspired by the legacy of Victorian First Nations people, who have cared for the ecological systems that life depends upon for tens of thousands of years.

We recognise Traditional Owner rights to self-determination and to speak for and look after Country.

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Note: For ease of reference, we refer to Landcare Victoria Inc. as Landcare Victoria.

Chair's report

Reflecting on 2024, it has been a year of growth, progress and meaningful outcomes for Landcare Victoria. Throughout the year, our organisation has continued to evolve, reinforcing our role as a supportive and effective peak body for our members.

This year, we have made significant strides in strengthening our advocacy efforts and have continued to engage with the State Government, calling for long-term support for the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program. The establishment of the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare in November 2024 was a welcome milestone for landcare in Victoria. Through this group, we have held two successful events in Parliament House to ensure that landcare remains a key voice in policy discussions.

We have continued to grow partnerships to strengthen on ground support to both landcarers and the broader community. Our New Futures project aligns strategic thinking by inviting other natural resource management groups into the landscape planning process to encourage a new way of approaching landscape restoration. We thank the Ian Potter Foundation and Natural Resources Conservation Trust for their continued support of the project. We are also working with Agriculture Victoria and the 10 Catchment Management Authorities, in the delivery of the federally funded Carbon Farming Outreach Program, to assist Victorian farmers to understand their emissions and the benefits of carbon farming.

Our newly launched Strategic Plan sets the direction of Landcare Victoria for the next three years. It outlines our ambition to double community landcare participation and enhance support for volunteers across the state. Our organisation remains committed to growing our impact, strengthening our member services and securing long-term investment in community landcare. We will continue to build an effective organisation that champions the needs of our members and contributes to a sustainable future for Victoria.

In 2024, we focused on enhancing our internal governance, expanding our support services and increasing engagement with our members. This has included the appointment of Neha Concisom as Administration Officer and Tahnee Burgess as the Program Coordinator for the Carbon Farming Outreach Program.

Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the dedication of our Board, Members Council and staff team. Their commitment has enabled us to provide stronger support, improve communication and advocate effectively for the needs of the landcare community. I extend my sincere gratitude to each of them for their contributions and acknowledge the wonderful leadership of our CEO, Claire Hetzel. With the adoption of our revised constitution, long-standing Board members Beth Ripper and Alice Knight will retire in 2025. Together, they have given over 20 years of dedicated service and are widely respected for their commitment to community landcare.

I extend our gratitude to the Rendere Trust (Phillipson family) and Upotipotpon Foundation (Crothers family) for their ongoing commitment to growing the capacity of Landcare Victoria. Without their support we could not have taken such dramatic strides forward in leading the direction of landcare in Victoria.



Our ongoing collaboration with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Victorian Landcare Team has ensured community landcare has a voice at the table. Our shared communications collaboration has continued to strengthen and allowed us to perform strongly in our information provision and connection with our members, including current challenges, such as the not-for-profit income tax reporting requirements. The Federal Government also supports community landcare through grant support to the National Landcare Network and State and Territory Organisations, including Landcare Victoria.

Looking ahead, Landcare Victoria will continue to seek opportunities to adapt and maximise our impact - and that of the broader landcare community - in the face of funding and climate challenges.

Jane Carney
Chairperson

Who we are

ABOUT US

People are at the heart of what we do at Landcare Victoria.

We are a not-for-profit representative body made up of over 600 groups, engaging tens of thousands of community members. As the peak body for landcare in Victoria, we enable a grassroots movement that fosters collaboration, to regenerate landscapes and address the challenges that we face around climate change, food security and biodiversity loss. We champion the critical role landcarers play in offering local solutions to global challenges, while enhancing community resilience and capacity.

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.



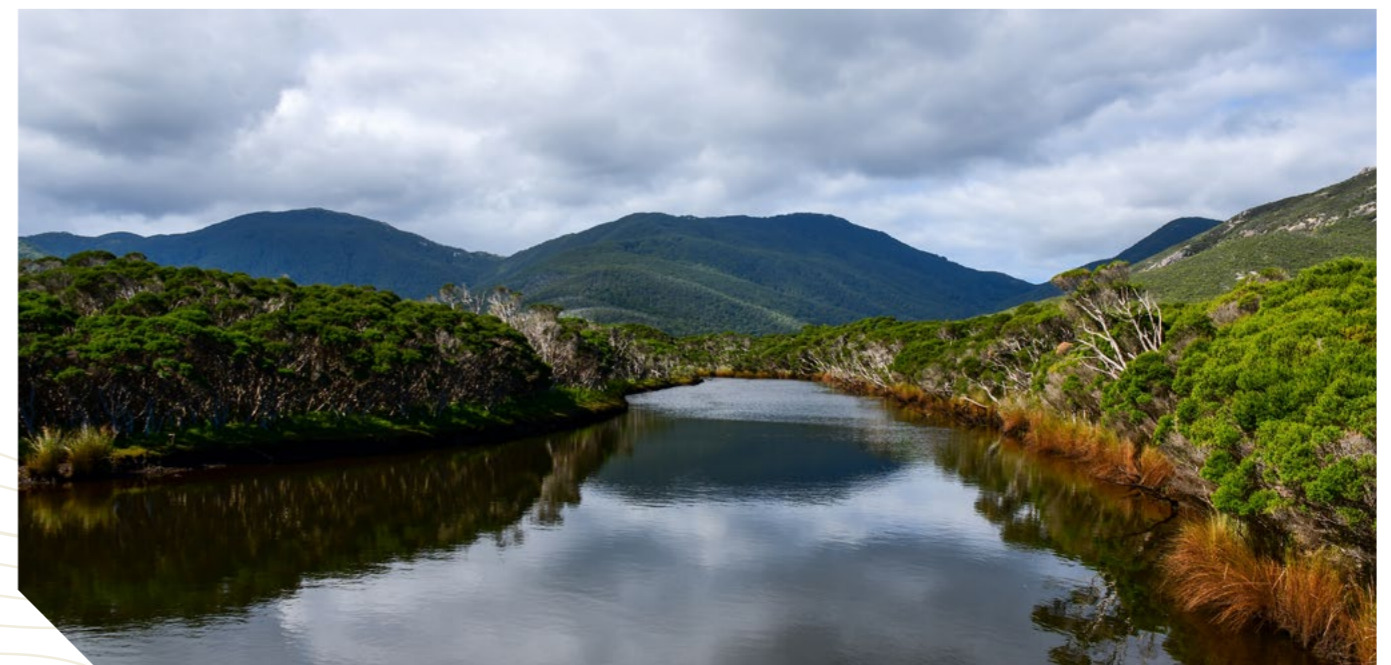
Respectful

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.



Delivering on our Strategic Goals

Landcare Victoria is guided by our Strategic Plan, which describes three primary goals for the organisation:

STRATEGY 1

A STRONG VOICE FOR VICTORIAN LANDCARE

Landcare Victoria is an influential voice for the Victorian landcare movement, advancing solutions that empower communities to achieve integrated sustainable agriculture and environmental outcomes.



STRATEGY 2

A THRIVING AND RESILIENT LANDCARE COMMUNITY

Landcare Victoria fosters and supports landcare networks and groups across the state, promoting best practice and collaborating with government agencies and others to increase capacity and capability of the landcare community.



STRATEGY 3

A HEALTHY ORGANISATION

Landcare Victoria operates effectively in a fiscally responsible, ethical, efficient and sustainable manner.



STRATEGIC PLAN

2021-2024

Our people

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Landcare Victoria is overseen by a volunteer board, supported by a dedicated staff team, as well as a voluntary Members Council.

Board

Landcare Victoria is governed by a volunteer Board, which oversees and steers the organisation by setting strategic direction and providing governance.

- **Jane Carney**, Chair
- **Paul Foreman**, Deputy Chair (Partnerships)
- **Ric Oldham**, Deputy Chair (Operations)
- **Beth Ripper OAM**, Secretary
- **Leanne Jackman**, Treasurer
- **Mark Feltrin** (appointed May 2024)
- **Tiffany Inglis** (appointed May 2024)
- **Alice Knight OAM**
- **Andrea Montgomery**
- **Kerri Robson**
- **Abi Smith** (appointed May 2024)
- **Mark Sutherland** (appointed May 2024)
- **Robert Spittle**

Thank you to the following Board member, who completed his term in May 2024.

- **John Birse**

Staff Team

- **Claire Hetzel**, CEO
- **Anthony Gallacher**, Project Manager
- **Sarah Vella**, Communications and Engagement Coordinator
- **Amanda Grace**, Project Officer (Member Services) / Office Coordinator
- **Neha Concisom**, Administration Officer
- **Ana Pimenta**, Landcare Development Coordinator
- **Tahnee Burgess**, Program Coordinator

Members Council

The Members Council is an advisory committee to the Landcare Victoria Board and provides the landcare community in Victoria with a mechanism to collaborate, share information, network and form a common view on issues facing the sector. The Council is representative of Landcare Victoria members and brings together landcarers who are diverse in the roles they fulfil and the personal skills they have, enabling engagement on key issues.

- **Kristy Stewart**, Corangamite – Professional Landcarer
- **Dawn Parker**, East Gippsland
- **Jileena Cole**, Glenelg Hopkins – Professional Landcarer
- **Sandy McKenzie**, Goulburn Broken
- **Dan Walker**, Goulburn Broken – Professional Landcarer (appointed May 2024)
- **Anette Lambert**, Mallee – Professional Landcarer
- **John Rowlands**, North Central
- **Julie Hind**, North East
- **Irene Lewis**, North East
- **Anthony Griffiths**, North East – Chair
- **Penny Raleigh**, North East – Professional Landcarer
- **Ross Colliver**, Port Phillip and Westernport
- **Susan Anderson**, Port Phillip and Westernport
- **Ian Hill**, West Gippsland
- **Dave Bateman**, West Gippsland – Professional Landcarer
- **Alicia Merriam**, Wimmera – Professional Landcarer

Thank you to the following Members Councillors who completed their term in May 2024.

- **Christine Kilmartin**, North Central
- **Sandra Nichols**, North Central
- **Jim Armstrong**, Port Phillip and Westernport
- **Robyn Gillespie**, Port Phillip and Westernport

Working Groups

- **Christine Brooke**
- **Bonnie Reeves**
- **Dan Walker**
- **Marissa Shean**

MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Landcare Victoria is made up of over 600 groups and networks, engaging tens of thousands of community members.

Groups and networks are varied and diverse in their activities, while having many common challenges and ambitions.

Members

Data collected from organisations completing Landcare Victoria’s 2024 Membership Renewal Census suggests a number of significant trends in the Victorian environmental volunteering landscape.

Landcare activity, as indicated by group expenditure, increased in 2024 (to an average of \$56,467 per group), as did the reported membership of landcare

organisations, demonstrating that landcare continues to thrive across Victoria.

Anticipated changes to the landcare system became evident in 2024, with reduced funding available for on-ground action evident by the drop in total reported annual income from \$35,695,000 in 2023 to \$33,229,000 in 2024.

Additionally, there has been a significant increase in organisations reporting incorporation, a maturation in group governance. This is likely a result of the recent income tax reporting changes which prompted many groups to evaluate their organisation and consider incorporating in 2024. We expect registered charity numbers will follow suit in the next reporting period as more organisations seek charity tax concessions.

Questions regarding membership changed in the 2024 Census. Members are now asked to

report the number of individual memberships (where the membership is for a single person) and family memberships (where the membership is for a couple, household or other situation where more than one person shares the membership) in their organisation separately. Members were also asked for the first time to estimate the total number of participants who took part in their activities across a complete 12-month period.

This data gives us a better picture of the actual number of people involved in landcare. In 2024, at least 28,368 people are members of environmental volunteering groups, and that over 44,000 participants were reported to have contributed nearly 500,000 hours of volunteer time over the course of a year - which is truly incredible and shows that despite challenges, the landcare movement is thriving in Victoria.



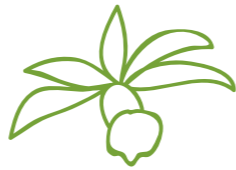
Membership statistics derived from responses to the 2024 census are presented in the following table.

Item	2024	2023	2022
Total number of member organisations surveyed	649	664	639
Total number of member organisations responded	561	567	586
Environmental groups	503	513	534
Environmental networks	58	54	52
Unincorporated associations	248	281	299
Incorporated associations or NFP companies	313	286	287
Registered charities	79	N/A ●	N/A ●
Total reported annual income	\$33,229,032	\$35,695,536	N/A ●
Average annual income	\$59,232	\$62,955	N/A ●
Total reported expenditure	\$30,133,205	\$28,145,394	\$23,652,594
Average annual expenditure	\$56,467	\$49,639	\$40,294
Total reported memberships per environmental organisation ●	22,042	21,366	21,388
Average reported memberships per organisation ●	39.3	37.7	36.4
Average number of independent subgroups per network organisation	9.1	N/A ●	N/A ●
Total reported non-member volunteers	N/A ●	21,436	13,813
Average additional non-member volunteers per Member Group	N/A ●	37.8	23.5
Total reported individual memberships (one person per membership)	15,716	-	-
Total reported family memberships (two or more people per membership)	6,326	-	-
Estimated number of people with landcare memberships ●	28,368	-	-
Total number of estimated participants over 12-month period	44,084	-	-
Total volunteer time estimated to have been contributed over 12-month period (people hours)	497,027	-	-

- Memberships may be individual members or households containing multiple individuals depending on group structure
- Data reported not available for this cohort of Member Groups
- Non-member volunteer data no longer collected
- Reported individual memberships + (Reported family memberships x 2) = Estimated number of people with membership of an environmental organisation



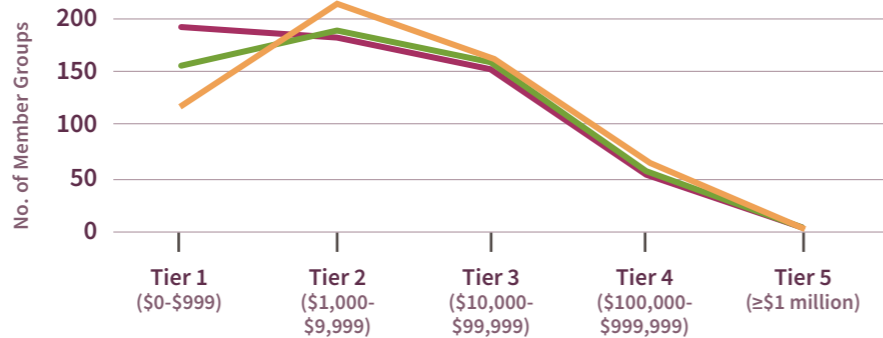
MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)



Distribution of members

By Landcare Victoria membership tier

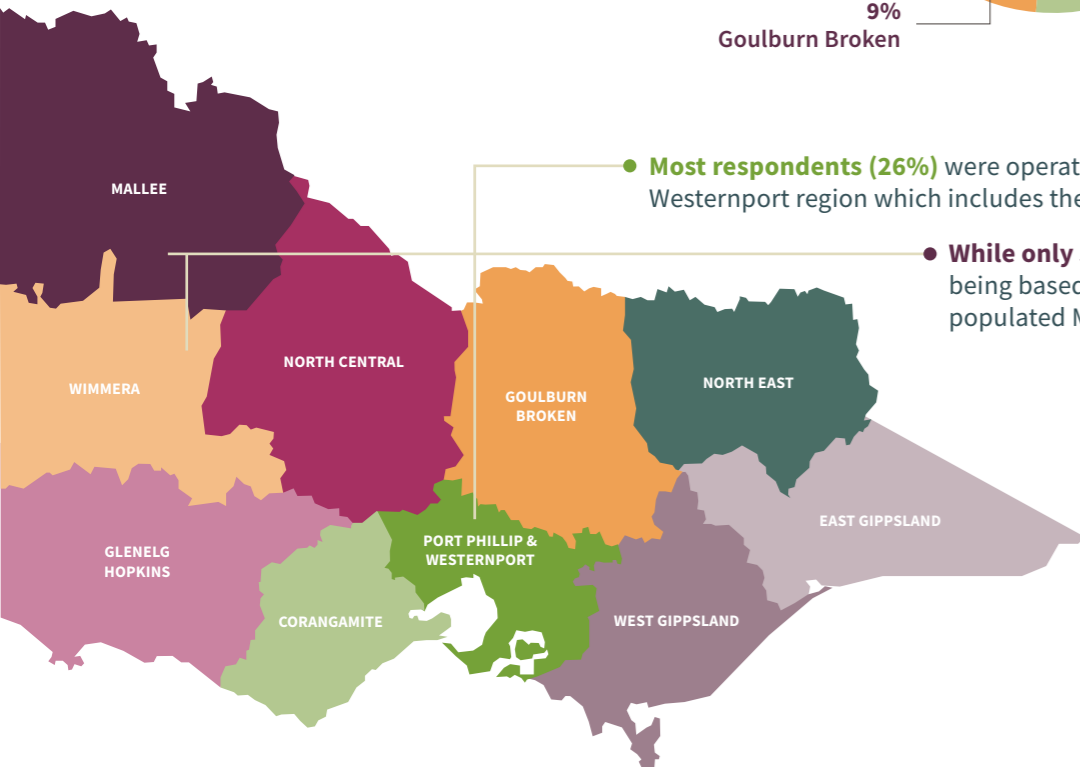
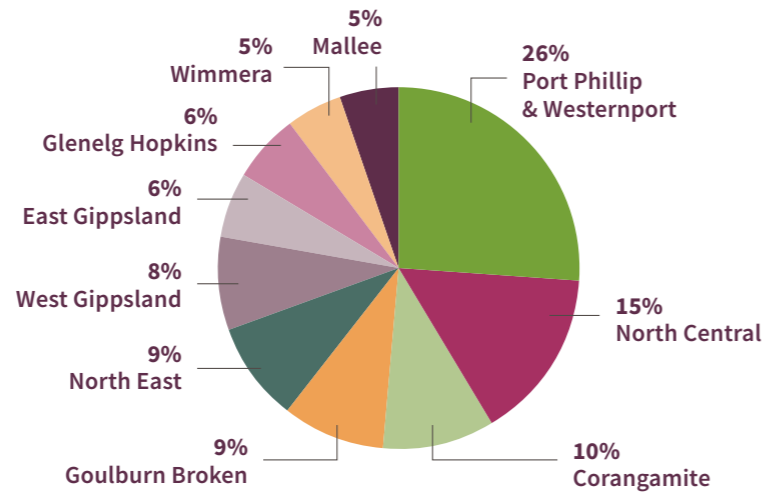
Landcare Victoria members are assigned to one of five Membership Tiers each year based on their reported annual expenditure.



	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
Members 2024	118	214	162	65	2
Members 2023	155	191	159	58	4
Members 2022	192	184	153	54	3

By Victorian catchment region

Environmental volunteering organisations operate throughout Victoria. Our data indicates a correlation between the population of each region and the number of groups and networks based there.



Volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of the grassroots landcare movement. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has generously dedicated their time, energy and skills to caring for Victoria's land and water. The impact of their work is far-reaching - enriching landscapes, strengthening communities and ensuring that nearly every corner of Victoria benefits from the care of a local landcare group.

In 2024, our member groups reported over 44,000 regular volunteers, who together contributed more than 497,000 hours to their local environments. This incredible effort spans a wide range of activities - from hands-on environmental work to behind-the-scenes roles in administration, planning and project delivery. These committed landcarers delivered an economic contribution to Victoria of \$22,673,140, based on a monetary value of \$45.62/hour of volunteer work¹.

Volunteers also play an essential role in the daily operations of Landcare Victoria itself. Our volunteer Board of Directors and Members Council provide leadership, insight and strategic direction to guide the organisation.

We are especially grateful to those who have taken on additional roles in 2024, including participating in our Forum Planning Committees, Governance Working Group and other committees that strengthen the voice and impact of Landcare Victoria. Your contribution is helping shape the future of community-led environmental care in Victoria.

OUR DONORS

Through establishing and implementing a fundraising strategy, Landcare Victoria aims to secure more resources for the work of the organisation and its members.

Landcare Victoria is a tax-deductible registered charity committed to advancing the natural environment through healing ecosystems, while supporting sustainable and globally competitive agriculture.

As of the end of 2024, 58 member organisations were registered for our Donations Service, and tax-deductible donations totalling \$45,293.95 were received into our gift fund throughout the year from donors wishing to support those members.

Donations enable Landcare Victoria to support governance, strategy, advocacy, project development, training and professional development for our landcare networks and groups across the state. We also arrange affordable insurance cover and provide grant and asset management auspice support to our members.

Whether it be through collecting cans and bottles via the Victorian

Container Deposit Scheme, our regular monthly donors or our generous major donors, these donations all add up to support our work.

This year we had 125 supporters donate as part of our Twitchathon fundraiser. We also received generous support as part of the CMV Group Staff Foundation 90 Years Giving Initiative.


The generous philanthropic funding provided by the Rendere Trust (Phillipson family) and Upotipotpon Foundation (Crothers family) continued to support the organisation's core capacity development needs. Landcare Victoria is especially grateful for the funding support for our flagship major project 'New Futures for Victorian Landcare' from The Ian Potter Foundation and the Natural Resources Conservation Trust.

We thank our donors, many of whom support the landcare ethos and recognise the unique role that landcare can play in our state. We value your contribution to the landcare movement and appreciate your continued support of our organisation.

¹ \$45.62/hour based on ABS 2017-2018 volunteer data and a 3.3% wage increase from 2023, Volunteering Naturally 2024 Report, The State of Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (November 2024)

Our projects

New Futures for Victorian Landcare



52 Local stakeholders engaged

Carbon Farming Outreach Program



8.57 Average event satisfaction rating

Advancing Landcare



569 Webinar participants

2024 Victorian Landcare Forum



230+ Attendees



PROJECT

Advocacy

We champion effective policy for landcare and work closely with state and federal government agencies, to ensure that government-provided support to landcare is effective and responsive to the needs of the landcare community and the challenges we face.

VICTORIAN LANDCARE FACILITATOR PROGRAM ADVOCACY

Off the back of the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program (VLFP) Review undertaken by DEECA, Landcare Victoria prepared the “A fair go for Landcare Facilitators - Funding proposal for the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program” report in October 2024. With pro-bono support from Deloitte, the advocacy report provides a funding proposal to strengthen and bolster the VLFP on behalf of the Victorian landcare community.

Landcare Victoria launched the report at a webinar in October 2024 “Advocating for the future of landcare”. Media coverage since the launch has included three radio appearances on the ABC and a number of articles, including in *The Guardian* and the *Wangaratta Chronicle*.

Landcare Victoria continues to advocate for the formal release of the DEECA response to the VLFP Review, so that feedback can be provided to the Victorian landcare community.

Landcare Victoria will continue to support groups to meet with their Members of Parliament and work to increase the visibility of landcare through the May 2025 State Budget outcome and beyond.

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF LANDCARE

The Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (VPFL) was launched in November 2024 with an event that brought together policymakers, landcare champions and industry stakeholders to celebrate the critical role of landcare in supporting both urban and regional communities.

The launch, held at Parliament House in Melbourne, was an exciting milestone demonstrating the importance of fostering collaboration at every level, to ensure the longevity of landcare’s efforts. Coinciding with the 38th birthday of landcare in Victoria, attendees heard firsthand from landcare facilitators and volunteers, who shared stories of resilience, innovation and impact.

The Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare is co-convened by Member for North-Eastern Metropolitan Region Richard Welch and Member for Ripon Martha Haylett, with Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh serving as secretary. These three advocates for landcare spearhead the cross-partisan group, which has around 40 members from across the political spectrum, and includes members from Labor, Liberal, the Nationals and the Greens.

The VPFL will continue to host events, with 2025 kicking off with the Environmental Volunteering Showcase in Queens Hall in Parliament House, in conjunction with the Victorian Environment Friends Network.



PROJECT

New Futures for Victorian Landcare

We are investigating and pursuing opportunities for landcare in emerging carbon and environmental services markets to help build and sustain major local restoration projects/programs.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

'New Futures for Victorian Landcare' is a pioneering project focused on aligning the landcare community with growing environmental investment markets. Our goal is to prepare Victorian landcare networks to create and

present large-scale, high-quality landscape projects that attract these investments. The project emphasises the development of a comprehensive landscape vision and the identification of investment opportunities, ensuring meaningful environmental and societal outcomes.

2024 saw big leaps and bounds in the project, with Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network and the Granite2Goulburn Group, led by Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative, piloting the New Future process, launching their Landscape Action Plans in December 2024.

The process has highlighted some key learnings including:

- Landcare is uniquely positioned as a cross tenure, multi-stakeholder engagement mechanism to deliver landscape planning processes
- Capacity and coordination funding is still a vital catalyst to implementing action plans
- Landcare is viewed as a trusted partner to invest in, and now is the time to get investment ready
- Markets are still emerging and there are a number of obstacles for landholder engagement in this space

Two new landscapes were selected to undertake the process in 2025. Congratulations to Heytesbury District Landcare Network and the Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups and Wodonga Urban Landcare Network collective.

Landcare Victoria and project partners are grateful for the funding support for this project from The Ian Potter Foundation and the Natural Resources Conservation Trust.



“Our Landscape Action Plan is not a document for sitting on the shelf. It has the capacity to guide our future actions in order to return environmental health and traditional culture to our region, while educating the future stewards of our regional landscape.”

-Windharp Horizons Working Group

“It has been a privilege to work with the Windharp Horizons and Landcare Victoria teams to support the New Futures project. Their credentials for working with communities on ambitious, sustainable landscape and community change initiatives are top rung. They know how to mobilise resources and commitment for visionary projects that deliver on time and on budget.”

-Lisa Adams, Workshop Facilitator

“Working collaboratively with the Granite2Goulburn (G2G) Group was different to how I usually help with strategic planning, but their intimate involvement in the process, from helping to plan and deliver the workshops through to leading the writing of the Landscape Action Plan was a really effective process. This Plan has been driven and is owned by the G2G landcare community, providing a foundation and level of ownership that many government or consultant written Plans can lack.”

-Brooke Hermans, RMCG

Engagement statistics

Round 1 pilot engagement and project outputs:

 **2** Landscape Action Plans developed

 **11** Landscape strategies identified

 **19** Pilot landholders participating

 **52** Local stakeholders engaged

 **118** State webinar and workshop participants



PROJECT

Carbon Farming Outreach Program

We are promoting best practice, climate resilient and sustainable farms through carbon farming practices.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Our Carbon Farming Outreach Program (CFOP) is here to assist Victorian farmers to understand their emissions and the benefits of low emission farming. Working in partnership with Agriculture Victoria and the ten Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), this program is delivering training tailored to local audiences and landcare groups across the state.

Beginning in September 2024, events have included topics from soil health to biodiversity and new technology in agriculture.

There's a lot of confusion about carbon out there. CFOP works with landcare groups and local audiences to understand the information they need and ensure it's presented in a way that allows them to understand the benefits and relevance of carbon farming.

When carefully planned, carbon farming can have the added benefits of increasing productivity, biodiversity, resilience to drought and can provide additional income sources. At the same time, carbon farming can reduce emissions on farms and absorb greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere.

Topics covered in this free training include:

- The benefits of carbon farming
- How to identify and understand your emissions
- How to begin carbon activities that suit your land and goals
- Navigating carbon credit markets
- Opportunities to earn carbon credits and income

This program will continue to deliver relevant information and support the delivery of events by CMAs and landcare groups, aiming to reach 2,700 land managers and farmers by April 2026.

The Carbon Farming Outreach Program is delivered with funding support from the Commonwealth of Australia through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water under the National Carbon Farming Outreach Program. The Program is delivered through a partnership between Agriculture Victoria, 10 Catchment Management Authorities and Landcare Victoria.



Engagement statistics

22
In-person events

3
Webinars

456
Event participants

8.57
Average event satisfaction rating

28%
Percentage increase in participant knowledge (pre-event compared to post-event)

CASE STUDY

CHICKS IN THE STICKS WIMMERA

Great things happen when women get together. For one of our first CFOP events, Wimmera CMA brought together dozens of landcarers and local farmers for Chicks in the Sticks in Moyston at the foot of the Grampians. After a 10-year hiatus, Chicks in the Sticks returned in October 2024, to celebrate women in agriculture and to share ideas about low emissions farming.

Leaders in low emission farming Dr Cassandra Scheffe and Fiona Conroy explained carbon farming theory and the benefits, as well as their own on-farm experiences. Those that attended reported an increase in their knowledge on carbon and were more confident to make decisions about low emissions farming on their properties.

“Absolutely fantastic pairing of speakers, so good with the theoretical session by Cassandra followed by the on-ground examples of Fiona. Such accessible presentations, really kept us alongside throughout the full story.”

-Participant

PROJECT

Advancing Landcare

We are delivering a governance and management development program to support member groups by facilitating knowledge, skill sharing and connections across the landcare community.

LANDCARE GROUP CAPACITY-BUILDING

In 2024, Landcare Victoria continued our Advancing Landcare Program to meet the governance and administrative needs of landcare and environmental volunteering groups. We focused on strengthening and building new partnerships throughout the year and looked for opportunities to develop more capacity building activities for 2025 and 2026.

Key activities delivered in 2024 included a webinar on the benefits of incorporation, supported by

Maddocks, a two-part media skills webinar series delivered with the support of Climate Media Centre, and webinars building knowledge around issues like invasive weed and pest animal management.

Landcare Victoria would like to thank the partners who collaborated with us on this Program in 2024, including Maddocks, VicReturn, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), Australian Tax Office (ATO), Accounting for Good, Victorian Gorse Taskforce, CFA, Victorian Rabbit Action Network, Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, Victorian Blackberry

Taskforce, Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation, The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordination.

Participation and engagement has been high and feedback very positive, demonstrating that we are on the right track with topics and delivery mechanisms. Following each event, participants indicated an increase in their level of knowledge, when compared to before the event. Landcare Victoria is aiming to secure more funding to continue this Program into the future.



SUPPORT WITH NOT-FOR-PROFIT INCOME TAX REPORTING CHANGES

In 2024, DEECA invested funding in Landcare Victoria to support our capacity to deliver assistance to Victorian landcare and environmental volunteer organisations to meet income tax concession requirements, based on changes to Australian Tax Office reporting for not-for-profits.

A dedicated webpage was launched at landcarevictoria.org.au/taxsupport to provide information, resources and updates and a Project Officer was engaged to deliver support services. Webinars were held on 2 May 2024 (with the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission) and 15 October 2024 to address the changes and discuss the impact on environmental groups, which were both well-attended.

Over 60 environmental groups/networks engaged Landcare Victoria support services on the issue in the second half of 2024.

Engagement with environmental organisations on this issue has been largely positive, with a lot of interest shown in accessing the provided resources and information. Feedback from individuals who accessed income tax and/or charity registration support from Landcare Victoria confirmed it was useful and effective, with 72% of respondents to our survey reporting a 'significant' increase in their understanding of the issue, and the remaining 28% reporting their understanding 'increased somewhat'.

This program will continue throughout 2025, delivering further support and written resources to ensure environmental groups can continue to access relevant information on related topics including ABNs, income tax, and charity registration.

Feedback

“ Appreciate the support from Landcare Victoria in regard to this complex and arduous issue.”

“ We have work to do! Thankyou.”

“ Thanks for a very comprehensive briefing.”



Photo credit: Maddie Grant

Engagement statistics

87 Workshop participants

6 Webinars

569 Webinar participants

730 Views of webinar recordings

60+ Groups engaged in ACNC/ATO information sessions

10 Written resources produced

PROJECT

Member Services

We support landcare groups to meet governance and risk management requirements through the provision of insurance, governance, funding support and advice and other resources.

INSURANCE

A key responsibility of Landcare Victoria is to provide insurance coverage for its members, supporting their ability to operate safely and with confidence.

The organisation obtains three policies, including: public liability, voluntary workers personal accident, and association liability, with premium and management costs distributed among financial members of the organisation.

Cover for 2024/25 was again obtained through AON Risk Services Australia. The insurance program was renewed with an increase in insurance premiums paid by Landcare Victoria compared to the previous year, due to a general increase in premiums. The insurance coverage sought covers a range of landcare and related activities expected to be generally relevant to most landcare groups, including burning activities (subject to an application for extension from members) and Professional Indemnity Extension for landcare professionals working

for Landcare Victoria members (at an additional cost).

The extension for fire activities has seen the continued removal of the systemic barrier to members engaging with Traditional Owner organisations in support of cultural fire activities, and in undertaking other cool burn programs.

Two new potential claims were lodged in 2024, related to volunteers suffering injuries during events. Risk management guidance and support for groups was further developed in 2024 and made publicly available on our website.



AUSPICED GRANTS

One of the benefits of membership with Landcare Victoria is that members are able to request grant sponsorship, or ‘auspice’ support for landcare related activities. This member benefit is of particular value to unincorporated members of Landcare Victoria.

Around 40 members took advantage of this service during 2024 with a total value of auspiced grants being \$140,310.

Significant auspiced projects that ran in 2024 include ‘Reversing Weed and Pest Trends in our Peri-Urban Environment’ by the Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group, ‘Wybejong Wildlife Corridor Extension to Upstream Refugia’ by Greening of Riddell and the ‘Koala Habitat Expansion Program’ by Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation.

Funds administered by Landcare Victoria under grant auspicing arrangements

(1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024)

	2023	2024
Grant Funds received	\$208,079	\$140,310
Funds disbursed to Member Groups	\$203,230	\$135,129
Balance	\$1,450	\$4,849

DONATIONS SERVICE

A relatively recent addition to Landcare Victoria’s suite of services, our Donations Service provides our members, who are not endorsed by the Australian Tax Office with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, with a mechanism to benefit from donors wishing to support their activities.

As a registered DGR, when donations are received into Landcare Victoria’s gift fund, a tax-deductible receipt may be issued to the donor for their contribution. When a donor expresses a preference for a member to be supported, Landcare Victoria takes that preference into consideration when determining how to utilise the funds and as a result, donations are regularly made to members for use towards achieving their environmental purposes.

Since its introduction in late 2022, the Donations Service is becoming increasingly popular, with 58 member organisations registered to benefit by the end of 2024. In 2024, tax-deductible donations totalling \$45,294 were received by Landcare Victoria from donors wishing to support members right across the state.



PROJECT

2024 Victorian Landcare Forum - Bendigo

In May 2024, the Victorian Landcare Forum was held over three days at the Bendigo Exhibition Centre in the North Central catchment area.



The event brought together environmental professionals, volunteers and stakeholders, for the opportunity to promote best practice and share stories to grow landcare across the state.

The first day of the event was dedicated to landcare professionals. Around 70 facilitators, coordinators and other environmental volunteering professionals came together to gain insights from experts and exchange knowledge with peers. Topics covered included: getting carbon ready, delivering 'big picture' projects and mental health, burnout and professional relationships.

The second day of the event was for anybody with a connection to environmental volunteering, with over 160 people attending to hear about collaborating and combining land management practices, aggregating action for landscape scale impacts and water in the landscape. The final session of the day was a valuable peer-to-peer learning session on the challenges and successes of landcare.

On the final day we held two field trips - one showcasing landcare in the urban and peri-urban areas of Bendigo, the other showcasing partnerships between Traditional Owners and landcare.

The Forum also included a visit from Minister for Environment, The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, who announced an a nine-month, \$3.6mil extension to the funding for facilitator roles, which will enable current landcare facilitator positions to be extended until 31 March 2026.



“ Thank you to the team that worked hard to deliver a successful event. The opportunity to learn from fellow Landcarers is always the most important part of the Landcare Conference.”

“ Love to see Landcare community come together for these events!”

“ Well done on a fantastic well-run event, you kept it all to time, the speakers were informative and engaging, I especially liked the panel sessions.”

“ It was a really great event and I enjoyed it a lot. The networking opportunity and hearing the innovative ways groups are connecting with their communities was very interesting.”

Thank you to all the sponsors and Forum partners for their contribution to making the 2024 Victorian Landcare Forum such a success.

Event partners:

North Central CMA, Women's Environmental Leadership Australia, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

Silver sponsors:

Arboregreen, Cassinia Environmental, Faunatech.

Bronze sponsors:

RMCG, BioGro.

Supporters:

Globalgreen Environmental, Wettenhall Environment Trust, City of Greater Bendigo, Mulloon Institute, RuralBiz Training, TreeProject.

Engagement statistics

230+
Attendees

7
Workshops

28
Speakers

2
Field trips



Partnerships and collaborations



Partnerships and collaborations are at the heart of Landcare's longevity and success. We have continued to strengthen existing relationships, build new partnerships and expand our reach across Victoria with the following organisations.

National Landcare Network (NLN):

Through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust (NHT), the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has invested in the Supporting National Landcare Organisations Program administered through the National Landcare Network. Landcare Victoria and other State and Territory Landcare Organisations are working together with the NLN to deliver an integrated approach to ensure that community landcare remains a dynamic and inclusive nationwide community movement.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action:

Landcare Victoria has continued a very positive partnership with the Department, coordinating landcare communication, capacity development and strategic statewide activities in partnership with the Community Programs and Partnerships team. Landcare Victoria has been collaborating with Agriculture Victoria in support of the Carbon Farming Outreach Program for the state in conjunction with the Catchment Management Authorities.

Catchment Management Authorities:

With funding support from DEECA and the Australian Government, CMAs play a vital role in support of landcare. Landcare Victoria continued positive working relationships with the CMAs in each region and collectively, through an updated MOU and action plan with VicCatchments.

Thank you to the following collaborators and partners for their contributions to Landcare Victoria in 2024:

- Landcare Australia Ltd
- ANU Sustainable Farms
- Landscape Finance Lab
- Regen Farmers Mutual
- Natural Resources Conservation Trust
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- Women's Environment Leadership Australia
- Maddocks
- The Climate Media Centre
- Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission
- VicReturn (Container Deposit Scheme Victoria)
- Victorian Gorse Taskforce
- Country Fire Authority
- Currie Communications
- RMCG
- Ethical Design Co.
- Infoxchange
- Ends of the Earth Consulting
- Thread Consulting
- Calxa
- Lisa Adams and Associates
- Victorian Environment Friends Network
- Wendy Brookes & Partners
- Mulloon Institute
- Nikon Rural Services
- Soil Land Food
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- The Unbreakable Farmer
- FRRR
- Nature Scripts
- Bendigo Agricultural Society



Our communications

Landcare Victoria is an influential voice for the Victorian landcare movement. We promote the value and achievements of Victorian landcare and amplify the voices of the landcare community through strong and innovative communication strategies.

Social media followers:

8.7K
Facebook

4.1K
Instagram

809
LinkedIn

1,826
Newsletter subscribers

ENGAGEMENT

Since investing in a full time communications and engagement role in 2022, we have been building our capacity in this area, making considerable improvements.

On social media, our reach and engagement also expanded significantly. Content shared on Instagram and Facebook engaged over 93,000 users throughout the year. Notably, Facebook engagement rose by an impressive 193% compared to the previous year, indicating that our efforts to share compelling stories, news and updates are resonating with a broader and more engaged audience.

Our direct communications also continue to perform strongly. Engagement with our newsletters and targeted email campaigns remains well above industry benchmarks for not-for-profit organisations. These channels are playing a key role in keeping our network informed and connected.

Together, these results demonstrate the value of investing in consistent, strategic communications to grow our reach and impact across the state.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, there was extensive media coverage of our advocacy to the State Government calling for secure funding for the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program in local, state and national media. Notably, the issue was featured on ABC radio, including the statewide Conversation Hour program as well as on local radio programs, including ABC Gippsland and ABC Ballarat and in *The Guardian's* national online publication

The voice of Victoria's landcare community was also featured in the news, from creating a seed bank for Indigenous plants in Far East Gippsland, to tackling woody weeds in Mansfield. The winners of the Victorian Landcare Awards and the launch of the Victorian Landcare Grants also made the news.

The 2024 Victorian Landcare Forum held in Bendigo also garnered some local news coverage, both in the lead up and following the event.

We are uniquely positioned to amplify the voice of landcarers in the media and with all levels of government. In 2025 and beyond, we will work to gather data and stories that demonstrate the true value of landcare. We will celebrate the achievements of our incredible community and use their stories to inspire others to get involved.



Treasurer's Report



REVENUE

Total revenue reduced slightly, by **\$13,302** compared to 2023. This small variation in total revenue includes a reduction in donations, the majority of which relates to the timing of donations made by the Ian Potter Foundation to support the New Futures for Victorian Landcare project. Reductions in donations were offset by income increases from membership subscriptions, grant income, interest and other income, reflecting a positive diversification of organisational income sources.

EXPENDITURE

The Board continued to keep tight control over expenditure. The most significant single item of expenditure continues to be staff salaries, wages and on costs; while staff costs increased from **\$539,868** in 2023 to **\$629,230** in 2024, much of this increase was due to the hiring of employees financed by new project funding streams.

As noted in the Revenue section, auspiced grant income reduced (from **\$203,230** to **\$135,029**), a reduction which is matched by a reduction in auspiced grants received.

OPERATING RESULT

The operating result for the year is a surplus of **\$155,983**. This is the third consecutive year of the organisation delivering a profit following a succession of losses in earlier years.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

Assets controlled by the organisation increased by **\$163,028** to **\$1,200,552**; this was largely due to increased cash holdings, which in turn was due to factors relating to the timing of receipt and expenditure of project funding, but also the recognition of the surplus for the year in cash.

Liabilities

Liabilities remained at levels similar to the previous year, showing an increase of only **\$7,045**. The net effect of the increase in both assets and liabilities was an increase in net assets (and therefore also reserves) of **\$155,983** during 2024, balancing back to the operating result reported above.

There has been further repair of Landcare Victoria's reserves during the past year; retained earnings (being the reserves available to the organisation not tied to a particular purpose or project) have risen from **\$109,648** last year to **\$235,841** by the end of 2024. The Board continues to consider that this balance is lower than required and will continue to work to improve the organisation's reserve position in the year ahead. This will ensure the financial sustainability of Landcare Victoria to continue to deliver services to members, cover unexpected costs and responsibly meet our liabilities.

Leanne Jackman
Treasurer



Financial Report

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC.

A011936S | ABN 69 561 995 226 |
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT

Your Committee Members present their report on the Landcare Victoria Inc for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Committee Members

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

Jane Carney (Chair)	Robert Spittle
Leanne Jackman (Treasurer)	Kerri Robson
Ailsa Beth Ripper (Secretary)	Abigail Smith (appointed 22 May 2024)
Ric Oldham (Deputy Chair – Operations)	Mark Sutherland (appointed 22 May 2024)
Paul Foreman (Deputy Chair – Partnerships)	Mark Feltrin (appointed 22 May 2024)
Alice Knight	Tiffany Inglis (appointed 22 May 2024)
John Birse (Resigned 22 May 2024)	Andrea Montgomery

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 \$155,983 (2023: \$33,966)

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
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT

After balance date events

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2024 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

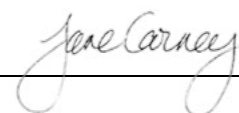
During the year, the association has paid an insurance premium to ensure indemnification of committee members and management. No payments were made to indemnify the association's auditors

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 28th of February, 2025

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC

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STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Revenue	2	1,532,547	1,545,849
Employee benefit expense		(629,230)	(539,868)
Auditors remuneration	4	(3,600)	(3,600)
Lease expense	3	(32,152)	(31,121)
Other expenses	3	(711,582)	(937,294)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>155,983</u>	<u>33,966</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year		<u>155,983</u>	<u>33,966</u>

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT
31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Cash at bank	5	1,111,126	960,093
Trade and other receivables		27,655	30,538
Prepayments		61,771	46,893
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,200,552</u>	<u>1,037,524</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,200,552</u>	<u>1,037,524</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	398,103	410,195
Employee benefits	7	34,140	14,796
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>432,243</u>	<u>424,991</u>
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	7	11,497	11,704
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>443,740</u>	<u>436,695</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>756,812</u>	<u>600,829</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Surpluses		235,841	109,648
Reserves	10	520,971	491,181
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>756,812</u>	<u>600,829</u>

**LANDCARE VICTORIA
INC
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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN
EQUITY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Retained Surpluses \$	Insurance Reserve \$	Public Fund \$	New Futures Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2024	109,648	40,625	1,079	449,477	600,829
Total Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the year	155,983	-	-	-	155,983
Reserve release	-	-	-	-	-
Allocation to (from) Reserves	(29,790)	-	4,615	25,175	-
	235,841	40,625	5,694	474,652	756,812
Balance at 31 December 2024					

**LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from operations		1,656,858	1,604,509
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,517,205)	(1,921,644)
Interest received		11,380	4,739
Net cash proceeds from/(used in) operating activities	5	<u>151,033</u>	<u>(312,396)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		960,093	1,272,489
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		151,033	(312,396)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5	<u><u>1,111,126</u></u>	<u><u>960,093</u></u>

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

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 2023 and the Associations Incorporations Reform Regulations 2023. 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
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

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)

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

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, or applicable, for 31 December 2024 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.

(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
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 2 : Revenue		
Operating Activities		
Subscriptions	373,686	305,435
Grants	484,990	368,312
Auspiced Grants Received	140,310	208,079
Donations	447,845	641,594
Other Income	74,336	17,636
Interest – bank deposits	11,380	4,793
Total Revenue	1,532,547	1,545,849
Note 3: Expenses		
Rental expense on operating leases		
- Minimum lease payments	32,152	31,121
Other expenses from ordinary activities		
Administrative expenses	73,211	74,455
Forum Expenses	48,424	34,175
Auspiced Grants Paid	135,029	203,230
Grant Funds to Partner Organisations	156,616	220,000
Communication Expenses	2,747	2,749
Contractors/Consultants/Temp Staff	125,714	127,950
Meeting Expenses and Committee Members		
Reimbursements	11,988	10,553
Donations	43,780	163,851
Insurance	83,495	69,825
IT Expenses	30,572	30,369
Sundry Expenses	6	137
Total other expenses	711,582	937,294
Note 4: Auditors Remuneration		

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Note 5: Cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank		1,111,126	960,093
Reconciliation of net surplus/(deficit) after tax to net cash flows from operations			
Net surplus/(deficit)		155,983	33,966
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>			
(Increase)/Decrease in trade receivables		2,883	515
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Debtors		-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in prepayments		(14,878)	(3,065)
Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables		(12,092)	(329,770)
Increase/(Decrease) in provision for employee entitlements		19,137	(14,042)
		<u>151,033</u>	<u>(312,396)</u>
Note 6 : Trade and other payables			
Trade payables and accruals		111,575	330,671
GST payable(refundable)		1,226	(17,630)
Grant funds under management	6(i)	285,080	97,154
Deposits re Memberships		222	-
		<u>398,103</u>	<u>410,195</u>

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

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
DEECA – Collaboration 2023/24	92,154	-	-	(92,154)	-
DEECA – Collaboration 2024/25	-	-	100,000	(50,000)	50,000
DEECA Advancing Landcare 2024/25	-	-	171,005	(47,335)	123,670
DEECA – Pests & Weeds 2025/26	-	-	25,000	-	25,000
Carbon Project	-	-	220,000	(133,590)	86,410
Other Grant Funding	5,000	-	156,911	(161,911)	-
	<u>97,154</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>672,916</u>	<u>(484,990)</u>	<u>285,080</u>

*Figures do not include project co-contributions by LVI

Note 7 : Employee Benefits

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current:		
Annual Leave	24,147	14,796
Long Service Leave	9,993	-
	<u>34,140</u>	<u>14,796</u>
Non-current:		
Long Service Leave	11,497	11,704

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 8 : Key Management Personnel compensation		
Compensation to key management personnel	163,755	212,636
Note 9 : Related party transactions		
Transactions with related parties		
Remuneration/Honoraria received by all Committee members	5,000	5,000
Note 10 : Reserves		
Insurance reserve		
Insurance reserve Excess Pool	40,625	40,625
Insurance reserve Claims Incurred	(i) 40,625	40,625
New Futures Reserve	(ii) 474,652	449,477
Project Reserves		
Public Fund	(iii) 5,694	1,079
Advancing Landcare Reserve		
VLN Landcare Support Staff		
Project Reserves	5,694	1,079
Total reserves	520,971	491,181

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
A011936S
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

(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) New Futures Reserve

The New Futures Reserve holds the balance of donations paid to the Association that are tied to be spent on the New Futures for Victorian Landcare Project.

(iii) The Public Fund

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

LANDCARE VICTORIA INC
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

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
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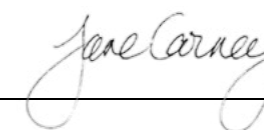
COMMITTEE MEMBERS' DECLARATION

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 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2023 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:

President



Treasurer



Dated this

28th of February, 2025

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 2024.

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 31st December, 2024 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 2023 (Vic)*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2023* 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' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2023 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2023*. 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 2023 (Vic)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2023* 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

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Dated: 17th March, 2025

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