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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

2025 AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been a "steady as you go" year for the Loch-Nyora LandCare Group. Some regular activities have consolidated whilst new proposals and modifications have been initiated.

I would like to thank all committee members for their contributions and, in particular, Bruce Freeman for taking on the duties of Secretary for the first time. His efforts have been significant.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

More recently, our committee took on an approach to carry out more "Educational Sessions" for our membership and supporters. Whilst there has not been an activity since the last AGM there will be a Koala information session held after this AGM and it's expected to attract many attendees.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

We did carry out some activities that involved some sweat and grunt this year.

Of note, there was a Pittosporum Removal session carried out on Wednesday the 20th of May at the entrance to Loch Village with four members attending. This triggered more activities on Mondays co-ordinated by Garry Knox and Daryl Smith as well as other locals, which continued that Pittosporum removal, treatment on other weeds and plantings. This has been a quiet but very successful initiative that has been effectively driven by Garry and Daryl. My thanks to them both.

Hilda Falls experienced another planting of ground covers on the 21st of September 2025. I encourage our membership to visit Hilda Falls and pull some weeds.

EUROPEAN WASPS

There was an outbreak of European Wasps in the vicinity of the Memorial Reserve, and as a group we financed a local contractor to reduce the presence of this pest. The costs were covered by a previous Melbourne Water grant, but the process was carried out smoothly and reflects good communication between various local groups and individuals.



Back: Treasurer Gary Martin, Secretary Bruce Freeman. Front: President Mal Brown.

WEB SITE

The Website has been utilised by members of the public and is still visible after a search on Google. It is being kept up to date by Bruce and to a lesser extent myself. Thanks to Bruce for his efforts on the website.

FREE TUBE STOCK

The committee agreed to once again provide our members with free plants, and this was organised with the native plant nursery at Inverloch. The administration system has been updated to provide more rigor with a check list of membership being provided to the nursery for purchases. Several members have taken up the offer, but it would be nice for more members to do so.

Rosemary successfully facilitated the provision of free tube-stock to members after the group was notified of some excess plants from a local indigenous nursery. This happened quickly and effectively, demonstrating Rosemary's skills at getting things done when required. Thanks Rosemary.

INCORPORATION

Thanks to Bruce our group is now incorporated, which will prove to be valuable for grant applications. We are still seeking registration with the ATO and Bruce is still proving to successfully move forward with this challenge.

CLUSTER MEETINGS

Cluster meetings which are co-ordinated by the South Gippsland LandCare Network, are held on a regular basis in the western area of the South Gippsland LandCare Network. Our group has been effectively represented by Rosemary, Bruce and Dallas. My thanks to them for keeping up our presence on this group.

ALLSOPS CREEK

The frontage to the Allsops Creek at the Memorial Reserve has been undergoing rehabilitation works for three years by Melbourne Water. In June of 2026, the contractors who have been carrying out these works will stop, and our group will be taking up the cause. We can do this by using a grant we received many years ago from Melbourne Water. I look forward to our group being involved in this high-profile site.

RAIL TRAIL AT NYORA

The South Gippsland LandCare Network is intending to carry out a planting at the Nyora end of the Rail Trail as part of their regular Pedal and Plant program in 2026, and our group looks forward to being involved in this activity.

NYORA CONSERVATION RESERVE (HENRY LITTLE DYKE RESERVE)

The Nyora Conservation Reserve (also known as the Henry Little Dyke reserve) is managed by Parks Victoria. It is located between Nyora and Poowong and our group has been in discussion with Parks Victoria to organise some working bees at the reserve in the future. The process to organise a working bee is a little complicated, but I suspect some works can take place in the first half of 2026.

OUR 30TH BIRTHDAY

Next year will be the 30th Year our group has been in existence. This is a great achievement, and I'm sure we can organise an event to celebrate this momentous anniversary.

FINANCES

Our finances are sound, and we have been spending money on valuable projects, plants and paying registration to various government bodies whilst maintaining an effective buffer in the bank.

Thanks to Gary for keeping the books.

GOVERNANCE AND COMMITTEE FUNCTIONALITY

We continue to experience good governance, and the committee work well together.

I'm confident the group will continue to carry out useful activities and productive work within the Loch/Nyora district, thereby promoting sustainable property management.

MALCOLM BROWN

9 November 2025

0403 997 831

WHAT'S ON

Sunday 15th March 2026 - We will be having a maintenance clean up at Hilda Falls - 10am till noon. We would love to see you give a hand at the falls.

Sunday 3rd May 2026 - Celebrate our 30th birthday. It all started at Henry's Creek Sanctuary on 3rd May 1996. More details to follow. See a You-tube re the history of the Sanctuary by clicking this link: [Sanctuary history](#).

Sunday 26th July 2026 - South Gippsland Landcare Network pedal and plant - will be organised by SGLN with our group and aim to beautify the entrance to the rail trail at Nyora.



Committee member John Morten at the recent Loch market LNLG stand.



LNLG's reminder to landowners at Loch entrance that now is the time to do weed control.

REVEGETATION APPROACHES AND BENEFITS BY JOHN MORTEN

Remnant vegetation provides an ideal starting point for revegetation efforts. These areas protect mature, seed-bearing plants and conserve local genetic resources allowing natural regeneration to occur. Fencing remnants prevents stock damage, enabling seedlings to establish and grow to maturity. Regenerating seedlings are vital for the long-term conservation of these vegetation stands. Large remnants and individual mature trees also provide critical habitat for fauna. Initial weed control within fenced areas is essential to support successful regeneration.

Rivers and waterways form natural corridors across the landscape. Revegetation of riparian zones enhances riverbank stability, as tree roots bind and strengthen soils, reducing erosion. Planting along rivers and estuaries supports both terrestrial and aquatic

design and durable materials are important considerations.

Corridor plantings along existing fence lines are a cost-effective way to connect remnant vegetation while also providing shade and shelter for stock. While corridors enhance landscape connectivity, their high edge-to-area ratio can increase light penetration and weed invasion. As a result, these plantings may require greater weed control during the early establishment phase.

Island plantings can be strategically located and sized to complement both the landscape and agricultural operations. Compared to corridors, islands have fewer edge effects allowing the developing canopy to shade the interior which helps suppress weeds over time. These vegetation islands provide shelter and



An eastern grey kangaroo at John Morten's site, caught on a trail camera in 2023.

ecosystems, improving water quality and habitat values. These environments are highly specialised and require careful plant selection suited to local conditions. Fencing to restrict stock access is often necessary; however, flood events can damage fences, so appropriate

habitat for fauna as well as shade for stock. Plantings can vary in size, shape, and density and may serve as safe stepping areas within broader wildlife corridors. Ongoing weed control is required until the canopy becomes established.

Individual tree plantings are a low-cost option requiring minimal space. When protected from stock through fencing or guards, individual trees can act as stepping stones for wildlife

moving across the landscape. Trees with wide canopies are particularly valuable for providing shade for stock, influencing stock movement patterns. Protecting these trees from browsing and physical damage is essential to ensure successful establishment and long-term benefits.

Focus on Wet Sclerophyll Forest Revegetation

Wet Sclerophyll Forests occur in high-rainfall areas of Australia and are characterised by a tall eucalypt canopy over a diverse understorey of shrubs, ferns, and grasses. These forests are among the most biologically productive ecosystems in the country and play a critical role in water catchment protection and biodiversity conservation.

Hydrologists have long argued that mature Wet

Sclerophyll Forests within the catchments of the Yarra River are a key reason Melbourne enjoys a clean and reliable water supply. One widely accepted explanation is that young forests use significantly more water than mature forests, particularly during the first few decades when tree growth rates are high. As forests age, water use stabilises, leading to improved stream flows and water quality.

The oldest trees in Wet Sclerophyll Forests begin to develop hollows in their trunks and major branches after approximately 150 years.

These hollows are essential habitat for many native species, including gliders, possums, owls, bats, parrots, kookaburras, kingfishers, treecreepers, pardalotes, and some reptiles. In younger forests, tree hollows are scarce, resulting in reduced availability of nesting and roosting sites and consequently lower fauna diversity.

Mammalian fauna in Wet Sclerophyll Forests is dominated by medium-sized browsers such as kangaroos, wombats, and wallabies, as well as smaller ground-dwelling insectivores and omnivores including antechinus and native rats. Arboreal species adapted to tall forest



A brush-tailed possum caught on camera at John Morten's property in 2023.

environments are particularly significant and include the Koala, Mountain Brushtail Possum, Ringtail Possum, Leadbeater's Possum, Greater Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, Sugar Glider, and numerous bat species.

Birdlife is rich and diverse, with many species common to forests across Victoria—such as fantails, thornbills, treecreepers, whistlers, honeyeaters, rosellas, currawongs, robins, pardalotes, cuckoos, and kookaburras. However, several species are especially

abundant or reliant on Wet Sclerophyll Forests, including the Superb Lyrebird, Eastern Whipbird, Bassian Thrush, Pilotbird, King Parrot, Scrub-wren, and the Sooty Owl.

Reptiles in this ecosystem are mainly small arboreal skinks with occasional larger species such as Tiger Snakes and White-lipped Snakes. Frog species are generally small and primarily terrestrial, relying on the moist forest floor and associated microhabitats.

Henry's Sanctuary provides a valuable example of the long-term benefits of revegetation and habitat protection. Over a 30-year period, sustained efforts to restore native vegetation have resulted in significant improvements in both flora and fauna diversity, demonstrating the importance of patience, ecological understanding, and long-term commitment in restoring Wet Sclerophyll Forest landscapes. Celebrating 30 years of Landcare - Henry's Sanctuary a bit of history 30 years perspective on improving flora and fauna habitat.

https://youtu.be/wK6-XT_Xhrw

Regeneration efforts on the Strzelecki Ranges are primarily focused on restoring habitat connectivity, protecting the endemic Strzelecki koala, and conserving critically endangered species like the Strzelecki gum. These efforts are led by a variety of environmental

organisations, government agencies, and community Landcare groups.

Wet Sclerophyll forests in Victoria are tall, open forests found in high-rainfall areas. They are dominated by large eucalyptus (*E. spp.*) trees such as:

Messmate (*E. obliqua*), Mountain Ash (*E. regnans*), Mountain Grey Gum (*E. cypellocarpa*), Blue Gum (*E. globulus*), Narrow Leaf peppermint (*E. radiata*), Strzelecki Gum (*E. strzeleckii*), Blackbutt (*E. pilularis*), Yellow



A swamp wallaby moves past the camera in 2025.

Stringy Bark (*E. muelleriana*), Manna Gum (*E. viminalis*), and Yellow Gum (*E. cypellocarpa*), Tallowwood (*E. microcorys*), Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*), Swamp Gum (*E. ovata*), Silvertop Ash (*E. sieberi*), Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*). These trees can form a high canopy over a rich and often dense understorey. The understorey includes a mix of shrubs, grasses, ferns, and herbs. Common plants include Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Pomaderris (*Pomaderris spp.*), Banksia (*Banksia spp.*), alongside forest wire-grasses (*Tetrarrhena spp.*). Lomandra (*Lomandra spp.*) and ground ferns such as Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*), and herbs like Ivy-leaved Violet (*Viola hederacea*). Tree ferns (*Cyathea australis*) are

often found in wetter gullies. Despite regular fire, these forests are highly resilient and maintain strong plant diversity.

Plant communities vary depending on rainfall, elevation, and soil type with Mountain Ash forests more common at higher elevations and Messmate forests widespread across lower slopes.

Wet sclerophyll forests differ across eastern Australia with plant composition reflecting

Peppermint, Blackbutt, Swamp Gum, Brush Box and Messmate with species varying by region.

Koalas depend on these forests for their food, shelter and movement. The leaves from preferred eucalypt species provides food and the tall canopies and layered vegetation protect against heat and predators.

With connected tree canopies and understorey allows for safe movement through the landscape.



Proof that John's place is important for koalas! Caught on camera in 2023.

local climate, soils, and elevation. These forests typically occur in moist sheltered environments such as gullies and creek flats and may transition into rainforest, with vines, ferns, and dense ground layers.

Wet Sclerophyll forests provide important habitat for koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) particularly in eastern Australia. Key koala food trees include Mountain Grey Gum, Blue Gum, Manna Gum, Yellow Stringy Bark, Mountain Ash, Forest Red Gum, Narrow Leaf

There are many wildlife camera images from John's property available on the link below:

<https://eduman.com.au/site/bloch/blochcreek/index.shtml>

Links to Vicflora species for more information on plant species:

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/pages/gippsland-plain>

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/pages/gippsland-highlands>

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you're new to LNLG or are due to renew your LNLG membership, please fill in the form below and post or email to our Treasurer, Gary along with your payment.

Loch/Nyora Landcare Group Incorporated

ABN: 46 721 158 006

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I/We, _____ wish to become members of the
Loch/Nyora Landcare Group at \$30/year.

Postal Address: _____

Email: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If paying via direct deposit (EFT) please use the following bank details:

Account Name: Landcare Victoria Inc Loch-Nyora
BSB: 633000
Account Number: 229828926

Please use your name as the reference.

Please email this application to: garymartin@attar.com.au

If paying by cheque please post this application and cheque to:

Gary Martin (Honorary Treasurer)
122 Jeetho West Road
JEETHO VIC 3945

FREE PLANT OFFER

As part of your yearly membership we have a relationship with Melaleuca Nursery to supply **10 free tube stock plants** to all financial members. Instructions to pick up your 10 free plants:

1. Ensure your membership payment is up to date.
2. Email our Treasurer Gary garymartin@attar.com.au who will provide you with a code to take to Melaleuca Nursery and redeem for your plants.

The offer expires **31 December 2026**.

Melaleuca Nursery
INDIGENOUS & NATIVE PLANT FARM
"Native plants, because they're beautiful" 

Equipment available for LNLG members' use

The following weed management equipment is available for use by Loch-Nyora Landcare members. Tree guards and stakes are also available. Phone Rosemary 0409 594 312 for collection or drop off.

- 3, 5 and 15 litre sprayers
- Hamilton tree planters
- Hoes
- Spray dye
- Granular weed dispenser

GET IN TOUCH

Loch-Nyora Landcare - <https://www.lochnyoralandcare.org.au/>

South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) - <https://www.sgln.net.au/>

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Mal Brown	President	0403 997 831 seawish@aapt.net.au
Rosemary Knox	Vice President	rosemaryknox@hotmail.com
Bruce Freeman	Secretary	lochnyoralandcare@gmail.com
Gary Martin (honorary)	Treasurer	garymartin@attar.com.au
Daryl Smith, Steve McTaggart, Dallas Handley and John Morten	Committee members	

SGLN CONTACTS

Jane McKenzie-Smith - Landcare Facilitator (Western Sector) jane@sgln.net.au
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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Kirby Leary - Project Officer kirby@sgln.net.au
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Shelley Banders - Communications and Project Support
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

SGLN Volunteer Board

Chair - Jillian Staton
jillian@board.sgln.net.au

Secretary - Peter Debreceny
secretary@sgln.net.au