

# Presidents Report 2023/24

Loch/Nyora LandCare Group (LNLG)

The climate for not for profit, voluntary groups doesn't seem to get any easier, and attracting new members and/or the general public to group activities can be hit and miss, but the Loch-Nyora LandCare Group (LNLG), gave it a go over the last year and we kicked some goals.

Before I begin the summary of the past year, I would like to thank all on the committee for their support and help.

## **Educational Sessions**

Our committee took on an approach to carry out more "Educational Sessions" as opposed to concentrating on the usual planting days or similar activities. We kicked off this strategy with a Nesting Box Educational Session which was picked up by the local paper and attracted many people, some from afar.

We joined up with the Mount Lyll LandCare Group for a weed control session at the Poowong Football Club rooms, which was very well attended. However, we may have peaked early as a Weed Control session more recently didn't do as well.

Nevertheless, with practice and some courage, I believe if our group picks the right subject, sufficient lead times and publicity, we can attract good numbers of people and help educate the public on Conservation Land Management.

## **Physical Activities.**

We did carryout some activities that involved some sweat and grunt. Hilda Falls experienced some preparation for a planting activity, which involved spreading mulch and planting some ground covers. The South Gippsland Shire helped with this activity and continues to provide some support, even if it means making several phone calls to those responsible.

I encourage our membership to visit Hilda Falls and pull some weeds.

## **Web Site**

Thanks to the efforts of Bruce, we now have a website where we can "Pop Up" in front of people's eyes after a simple search on Google. I believe this is an important strategy and should see an increase in our exposure. Whilst it would be nice to expand our digital presence, the time this takes makes that unlikely in the short term.

## **Farm Walks**

There had been two Farm Walks, (Pam and Bruce's property and Rosemary and Garry's property) with moderate success, but I believe this is still an activity worth persisting with.

## **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. I don't believe there has been a take up of this offer yet, but it's a generous and a productive way to increase native plants in our region and I believe we should continue to push this service.

## **Koala Planting**

The Westernport Conservation Group carried out a planting in our region to create habitat for Koalas and this was supported by our group and two committee members attended. Apparently our Koalas have special DNA and we should continue to pursue helping them.

**Incorporation**

When I first became president, I was surprised we were not incorporated, but it seems we are now being driven down the path of incorporation by the Australian Taxation Office, and all being well, we should be incorporated within the next 12 months. This will provide more options in grants and funding.

**Finances**

Speaking of grants, our finances are sound, but we should not fall into the trap of not spending money and continue to take a few risks with activities.

Thanks to Gary for keeping the books.

**Public Presence**

With help from Rosemary and myself, the group had a stall at the Loch Winter Markets and Rosemary continues to be a voice for the group in the Loch Village. Thanks Rosemary.

We continue to experience good governance and the committee work well together. I'm confident 2024/25 will see the group continue to carryout useful activities and productive work within the Loch/Nyora district, thereby promoting sustainable property management.

Malcolm Brown  
8 November 2024