

East Gippsland Landcare
Network Inc.

Annual Report 2020-2021



Anyone, Anywhere, Can Landcare!



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ABN: 98 434 926 368

Incorporated no: A0051001V

What is Landcare?

Landcare is a unique community driven organisation that strives to 'do something practical' about protecting and repairing our environment. All sorts of people take part in Landcare projects and activities – farmers, small landholders, schools and their students, professionals and visitors from Australia and around the world.

The East Gippsland Landcare Network was officially established on the 15th of October 1996. The Network formed with a purpose to act as a support body for the then 14 Landcare groups which at the time covered an area from Perry Bridge in the west to Cann River in the east. The Network would also become responsible for directly employing its own Landcare support staff.

Today, the East Gippsland Landcare Network is incorporated and 4 support staff are employed to support 24 Landcare groups. The groups cover an area from Perry Bridge in the west, Lake Tyers Beach in the east and the foothills of the Great Dividing Range in the north and have a combined total of over 900 memberships, including family and property memberships

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Acknowledgements:

Compiled: Caroline McGuinn - East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc.

Photos: East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. Staff & Members

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President's Report 2020-2021

Has anyone *not* heard of Covid-19? It has certainly impacted on just about everything we have done or tried to do over the past 12 months. But it seems that when you throw adversity at volunteers, they find a way to respond. Groups have found ways to keep the work going, even if with reduced numbers to ensure that they complied with Covid restrictions. And Zoom/MS-Teams has become a much more familiar “place” to meet, even though it lacks the vibrancy and nuance of being together in person.

In this time the Committee has functioned almost exclusively in the “virtual” space but managed to keep things happening. This has largely been courtesy of Russell putting in a lot of time and using his tech skills to make a lot of otherwise challenging things just happen smoothly. It is with considerable sadness that we will be bidding Russell farewell as at the next AGM. He will be missed!

And speaking of missed, it is with great sadness that we have farewelled Les Gilbert not only from the committee, but from life. Our heart goes out to Gillian, his partner, who misses him a whole lot more.

On the finances side, Vicki has done a sterling job of moving us to Xero as our new Finance system, as well as streamlining the system we use to manage and monitor our finances. This will make life *much* simpler for everyone who has to use it. Thank you, Vicki, on behalf of those who will be following in your steps!

And just in case anyone missed it, this year we went through the process of applying for funding for Facilitators via the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program (VLFP), with success in gaining two of the three applied for Facilitator positions. That made sure we retained Phil Vaughan and Hagan Brightman, but we had to find another way to keep Caroline McGuinn on board, which we are doing using some of the carried over surplus from past years. This gives us some time to see if we can locate other funding to keep her highly valued skills and attitude within our EGLN space.

Making sure that no-one got bored, we *also* had to change the employment arrangements for the two VLFP Facilitators as Goulburn Murray Landcare Network were no longer able to provide these employment services. Fortuitously, we were able to engage Envite (part of WorkWays) to partner with us in this from July 2021, and all indications are that this will be an effective relationship that will help EGLN provide support to the Network Member Groups. And coming back to missing people, we thank Louise Avery for her significant contributions across many areas, but in particular with the collaborative work in partnering with Envite to submit the bids for the Facilitator Funding.



Tree violet (Melicytus dentatus)



Preparing for planting

President's Report 2019-2020 Cont'd



*New growth Coast Grey Box
(Eucalyptus bosistoana)*



Red Gum Plain tributary

Parallel with the Facilitators providing support for Groups, we have Nat & Matt running a raft of projects including TopSoils and Lungs of the Lakes, with a few more in the pipeline, especially with Federal Bushfire Recovery funding supporting a number of these initiatives. Many of these projects have been significantly impacted by Covid, with face-to-face components or large-scale volunteer working bees made either difficult or impossible. Fortunately, the adaptability and resilience of our staff, presenters and participants have ensured that our projects remain on track.

As we move into the new year, we know it will bring more changes and challenges, with massive uncertainty around how Covid-normal might work. But with the amazing people that make up this Landcare community I am confident we will continue to bring about good environmental outcomes in our region.



Peter Reefman.

President, EGLN.

EGLN Committee 2020-2021

The EGLN Committee consists of 7 members who are annually elected from the list of Landcare group representatives. The 2020-2021 Committee members are:



President:

Peter Reefman (Flaggy Creek)



Vice President:

Louise Avery (Nungurner) (to March 2021)



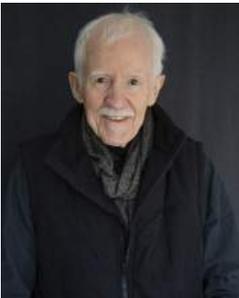
Secretary / Public Officer:

Russell Peel (Paynesville)



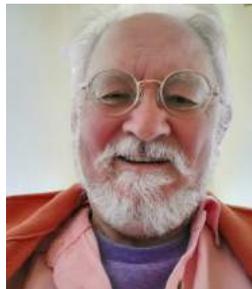
Treasurer:

Vicki Leris (Nicholson)



Committee Member:

Les Gilbert (Lower Tambo)



Committee Member:

Phil Horner (Friends of Oneonta)



Committee Member:

George Neophytou (Romawi)

Additional Committee Members (Part Year Only):

Committee Member:

Gillian Chaplin (Lower Tambo)
(March—June 2021)



Grey parrot pea (Dillwynia cinerascens)



Bushy needlewood (Hakea serica)

The Committee ensures that the EGLN Inc. is operating within its own rules and policies.

EGLN Staff



New eucalyptus growth benefits from Spring rains



Crimson Bottlebrush (Callistemon citrinus)



**Office Manager / Network Support
Facilitator:**
Caroline McGuinn



Facilitator (June - Oct 2020)
Project Manager: Oct 2020 onwards
Matt Stephenson



Project Officer/Facilitator :
Erin Weir (July 2020)



Facilitator:
Hagan Brightman (Jan-June 2021)



Project Officer TopSoils:
Natalie Jenkins
Hosted by Southern Farming Systems



Facilitator:
Phillip Vaughan (Oct 2020 onwards)



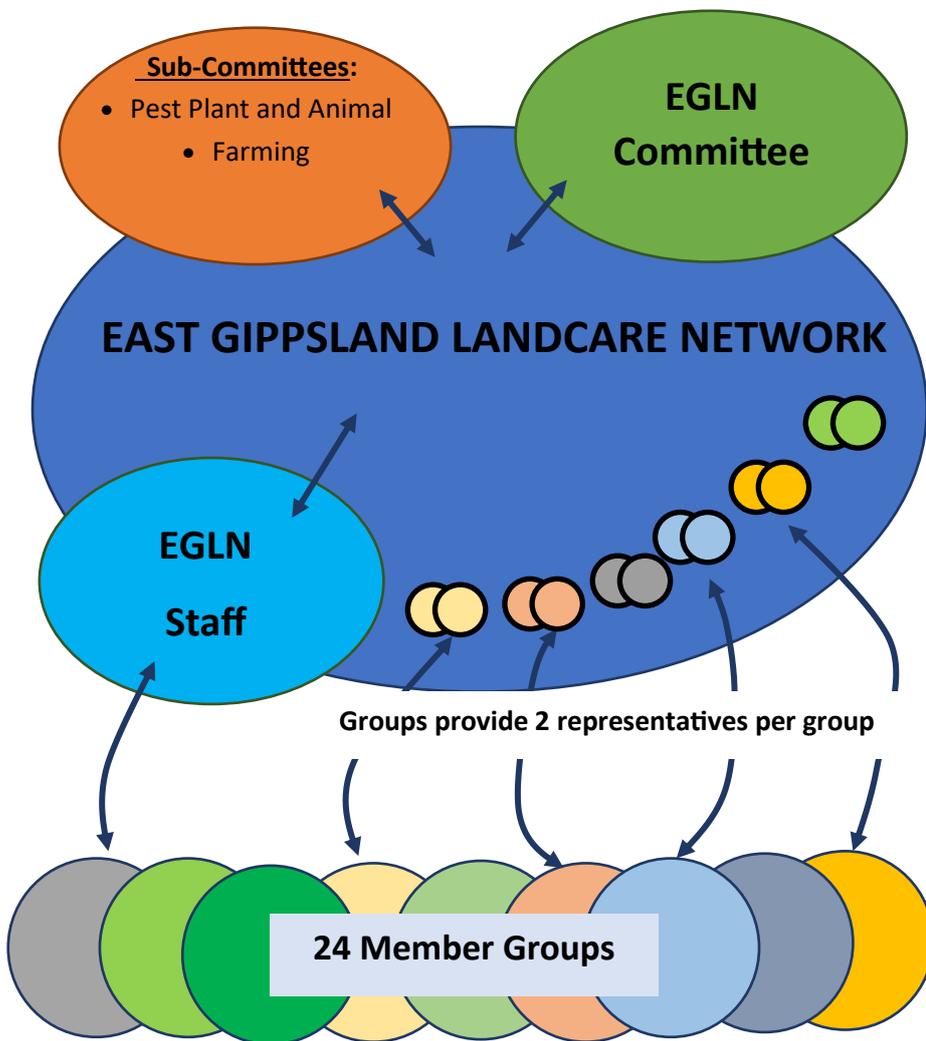
Facilitator:
Matt Renshaw (Aug—Dec 2020)

Governance Arrangements

Organisation Chart

The EGLN Inc. acts as a support body for the 24 Landcare Groups and assists them to meet their goals. The EGLN Inc. is governed by its own rules, which were developed at the time of Incorporation (4th November 2007 and amended April 2019) as well as policies and procedures.

The EGLN Inc. maintains several sub committees, which have specific delegated duties that are documented in approved Terms of Reference.



Nodding blue Lily (Stypandra glauca)



Blueberry ash (Elaeocarpus reticulatus)



*Growing Buchan Blue Wattle
(Acacia caerulescens) from seed.*



Digging holes the time– saving way!

Governance Arrangements

East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. (EGLN Inc.)

The members of EGLN Inc. are the 24 Landcare Groups in the East Gippsland region that have joined EGLN. Each member (group) is represented by up to two persons nominated by the group to represent the group. The 2020-2021 Group Representatives were:

Group Name	Representative 1	Representative 2
Bengworden	Jenny Robertson	Rose Maher
Bruthen	Matt Pearce	Yolan Berry
Buchan	Denise Free	Jack Free
Clifton Creek Community	Ron Cornell	Ken Stuart
Eagle Point	Sandra Hammond	Tom Crook
Eastwood	Lance Cruickshank	Bob Hindle
Flaggy Creek & District	Donna Trewin	Peter Reefman
Friends of Picnic Point	John Hopkins	Phil Large
Friends of Oneonta	Phil Horner	Robyn Coulthard
Friends of Upper Nicholson	Angus Howlett	
Gelantipy	Judi Sykes	-
Glenaladale	Susan Mills	-
Lakes Entrance Community	Angelique Stefanatos	-
Lower Tambo	Les Gilbert	Gillian Chaplin
Nagle College	Andrea Savage	-
Nicholson River	Marion Dawson	Vicki Leris
Nungurner	Louise Avery	Sally Avery
Paynesville	Russell Peel	Michael Beazer
Raymond Island	Pamela Williams Wright	Rob Wright
Romawi	George Neophytou	Alistair Mailer
Swifts Creek - Ensay	Jamie Johnson	-
Tambo Bluff	Alan Maloney	Marion Dawson
Toms Creek	Martin Blennerhassett	Craig Bush
Timbarra	Joy Manley	-

EGLN Sub-Committees

EGLN Pest Plant & Animal Sub-Committee

The Pest Plant and Animal Sub-Committee members are:

Ken Stuart (Clifton Creek Community)

James Rose (Flaggy Creek)

Marion Dawson (Nicholson River & Tambo Bluff)

Ron Cornell (Clifton Creek)

Purpose

The purpose of the Pest Plant and Animal Sub-Committee is to provide advice and act as an information base for both information on control techniques and potential funding sources for EGLN Landcare Groups' Pest Plant and Animal programs and projects.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Pest Plant and Animal Sub-Committee will:

- Collect information on Pest Plant and Animal programs and projects currently being undertaken within the region.
- Develop inter-network and inter-agency partnerships in relation to Pest Plant and Animal management.
- Provide Pest Plant and Animal information on both control techniques and funding opportunities/avenues to EGLN Landcare Groups.
- Oversee and be involved with EGLN Pest Plant and Animal programs and projects

EGLN Landcare Farming Sub-Committee

The Landcare Farming Sub-Committee members are:

Jenny Robertson (Bengworden)

Rose Maher (Bengworden)

Neil Stringer (Romawi)

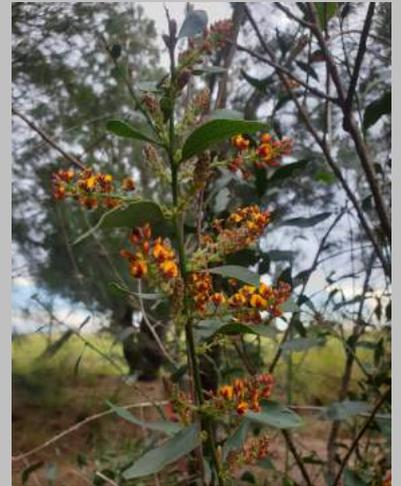
Purpose

The purpose of the Landcare Farming Sub-Committee is to work collaboratively to identify and support adaptive management practices for sustainable agriculture in the East Gippsland area.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Landcare Farming Sub-Committee will:

- Collect information on Landcare Farming programs and projects currently being undertaken in the region.
- Develop inter-network and inter-agency partnerships in relation to Landcare Farming.
- Provide Landcare Farming information and funding opportunities to/avenues to EGLN Landcare groups.
- Liaise with East Gippsland Regional Landcare Farming programs and projects, such as Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator, Far Eastern Victorian Landcare, Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee, Gippsland Agricultural Group and Southern Farming Systems.
- Meet with the Project Manager(s) in regard to future planning and reporting of EGLN funded projects on a quarterly basis.



Bitter-peas (Daviesia)



Bushy needlewood (Hakea serica)

EGLN Strategic Direction

Vision:

A vibrant and empowered East Gippsland Landcare Network working in partnership to enhance environmental outcomes for the community.

The Network's specific purposes are:

- To act as an umbrella organisation to provide a regional voice on Landcare issues in East Gippsland.
- To enhance the natural environment through the fostering of sustainable resource management.
- To raise awareness of and promote community involvement in Landcare issues and projects.
- To be a recipient of and manage funding for Landcare projects.
- To undertake community education activities that promote these purposes.



The EGLN marquee at the East Gippsland Field Days



Monitoring nest boxes

EGLN 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

77,400 SEEDLINGS PLANTED

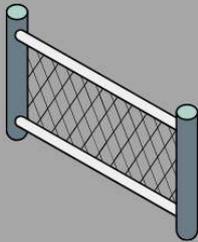
Native indigenous seedlings were planted right across the EGLN footprint, with a focus on revegetating areas directly affected by the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires. Accessing local provenance seed is important to EGLN.



Seedlings growing at a local nursery.

72KM FENCING CONSTRUCTED

Fencing is vital to many of our projects. Whether riparian, revegetation or exclusion fencing - it's essential both for helping us to increase biodiversity and to improve agricultural productivity



OVER \$430,000 NEW FUNDING BROUGHT TO REGION

EGLN started 8 new projects in 2020-21 with funding for a broad range of works including citizen science projects, fencing and revegetation works, and pest plant and animal control.



A Volunteer assembles seedling guards.

OVER 4300 HOURS VOLUNTEERED

Volunteers are integral to our operations. They participate in online or face-to-face workshops and learning activities, work to revegetate the landscape, and construct fences - they are amazing!



INCREASED SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

In 2020-2021 EGLN started to increase promotions to community via facebook to reach a wider age demographic. Followers increased by 45% with content seen by over 13,500 people.



24 Landcare Groups



Over 900 memberships



EGLN Projects

The following pages detail projects that were concluded in the 2020-2021 financial year. This ensures that full project outputs can be included in this report. Projects that remain ongoing will feature in future EGLN Annual Reports.

Landcare Groups Revegetating East Gippsland

FUNDED BY:

East Gippsland Water Native Vegetation and Habitat Creation Grants Program

AIMS:

This project aimed to provide over 5,000 native seedlings, (and related stakes, guards and water crystals) to four Community Groups including three Landcare Groups and one Community Garden. (Raymond Island LG, Romawi LG, Tambo Bluff LG, and Metung Community Garden.) The project would assist with the revegetation of public land within the Group boundaries.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Landcare Groups and Metung Community Garden revegetated four areas with a total of 5410 seedlings, protected by guards and in some instances provided with water crystals.

The split between sites was approximately 3960 seedlings to Raymond Island, 1000 to Romawi, 100 to Tambo Bluff and 350 to Metung.

Activity	Output
Plant and guard 1 hectare of land to improve on traditional survival rates of 75%	1 hectare protected. A median 89% survival rate was achieved.

PARTNERS:

Landcare Groups and their members and landholders.



Planting in Metung



Planting on Raymond Island



Seedlings now established at Romawi's planting site

VLG: Habitats, Homes and Hollows

FUNDED BY:

State Government Victorian Landcare Grants Program

AIMS:

This project aimed to install 40 nest boxes at various Landcare Group locations within the East Gippsland Landcare Network boundary. A workshop would be held to construct the nest boxes. A report summarising the monitoring of the nest boxes would be produced.

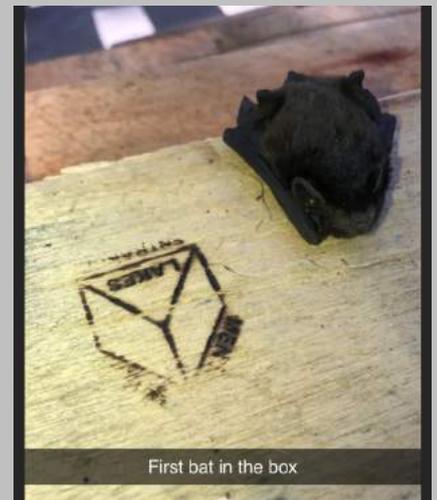
ACHIEVEMENTS

Monitoring reports have demonstrated that these boxes are being well used by local native species. In one box, a microbat was observed the day after installation.



Nest Box delivery from Lakes Entrance Men's Shed

Activity	Output
Hold 1 nest box making working for 15 participants	Unable to be hold due to covid restrictions. The boxes were instead created by the Lakes Entrance Men's Shed.
Build and Install 40 Nest Boxes	40 Nest Boxes were installed across 4 EGLN Group areas.
Deliver 1 monitoring report	A survey of all nest boxes was performed post installation.



A microbat takes up residence

PARTNERS:

The Lakes Entrance Men's Shed, Landcare Groups and their members and landholders.



Two boxes in-situ at Tambo Bluff

VLG: Protecting Our Plants



Inside a mesh guard



Perimeter 'exclusion plots'



Beast Guards

FUNDED BY:

State Government Victorian Landcare Grants Program

AIMS:

This project aimed to trial six types of tree guards to collect information on their success in protecting revegetation seedlings against two common browsers; deer and rabbits. The six guards trialled were (3 for each browser):

1. Mesh plastic guards and stakes (450mm for rabbits and 900mm for deer)
2. A 10-metre perimeter 'exclusion plot' fence (900mm for rabbits, 1500mm for deer)
3. A sturdy 450mm cardboard guard for rabbits and a 900mm beast guard for deer

Base data was collected on the general number of browsing species and severity of previous browsing. After planting, the success rate of the guards was monitored. Analysis of guard effectiveness also took into consideration: cost per plant protected, cost of installation labour, guard longevity, and whether the guard was recyclable or reusable.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Activity	Output
Plant 5400 Native Indigenous Tubestock	5400 seedlings supplied to revegetate 9.5ha. of land.
Deliver 1 Best Practice Planting Workshop for 30 participants	Due to Covid Restrictions, one workshop was held online for 15 participants. 3 separate site-specific assessments were also held with landholders.
Deliver 1 ecological assessment on the trial results	3 sites were monitored to check the progress of seedlings and the effectiveness of the guards. Report presented.

PARTNERS:

Landcare Groups and their members and landholders.

VLG: Learning with Landcare

FUNDED BY:

Victorian Government’s Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program

AIMS:

This project aimed to increase group member understanding of effective project monitoring and evaluation and provide a template that can be used. The project saw the development of monitoring protocols for revegetation projects delivered by East Gippsland Landcare Network. EGLN Groups assisted in undertaking testing of the developed protocols against current revegetation activities. Training was provided to Landcare members in the use of the monitoring protocol that was produced.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Activity	Output
Hold 1 workshop for 15 participants	Workshop transitioned to an online event watched by at least 15 participants
Undertake 1 flora assessment report on monitoring undertaken	3 assessments were undertaken using the protocol
Deliver 1 monitoring protocol	A protocol for the Gippsland Plains area of the EGLN area involving monitoring criteria for the most common EVCs was produced

A monitoring protocol was produced that guided landholders through the whole revegetation process, from defining and mapping the area involved, selecting the most appropriate plants according to EVC and follow up monitoring of seedling survival.

PARTNERS:

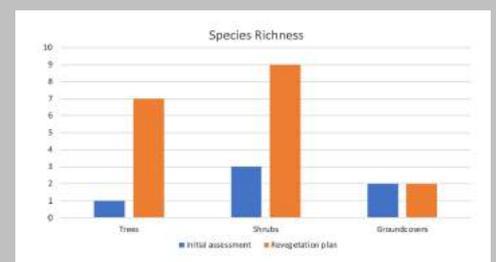
Landcare Groups and their members and landholders.



A map of the area covered by the Protocol that was produced.

Site Location	Water Vegetation site		
Area/EVC	3.63		
Lifeform	Scientific Name	Common Name	Quantity
Trees	<i>Sugglenia tasmanica</i>	Blue Gum	450
	<i>Eucalyptus boschiana</i>	Coast Grey Gum	150
	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Gum	150
Small Trees and Large Shrubs	<i>Acacia melanocoryna</i>	Blackwood	450
	<i>Albizzia julibrissin</i>	Plum Yew	150
	<i>Acacia leptocoma</i>	Lightwood	150
Medium Shrubs	<i>Phoradendron vitaceum</i>	Wattle	150
	<i>Leptosiphon australis</i>	Wattle	400
	<i>Decaschisma</i>	Shrub	400
Small Shrubs	<i>Leptosiphon australis</i>	Wattle	400
	<i>Phoradendron vitaceum</i>	Wattle	400
	<i>Leptosiphon australis</i>	Wattle	400
Ground Covers	<i>Phoradendron vitaceum</i>	Wattle	250
	<i>Leptosiphon australis</i>	Wattle	250
Total			4250

An example of species selection by EVC in the Protocol



A simple method of monitoring and viewing the survival of seedlings

Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program



Meeting the new facilitators



Working in the EGLN marquee at the East Gippsland Field Days



2020-21 saw the introduction of many online meetings with the Team!

FUNDED BY:

Victorian Government's Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program

AIMS:

The Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program enables the effective participation of Landcare groups and networks, landholders and the wider community in natural resource management activities that protect, enhance and restore our natural environment, and improve agricultural productivity.

APPROACH:

The East Gippsland Landcare Network was the proponent for one facilitator position to support the Network and is assisting Toms Creek and Tambo Bluff Landcare Groups to host two facilitators to support the 24 Landcare groups within the East Gippsland Landcare Network.

Facilitators work within a framework that covers 7 key work areas. Notable achievements in 2019-20 include:

Activity	Output
Building local capacity	Local volunteers contributed over 4300 hours of project assistance as well as attending both face to face and online capacity building workshops.
Undertake Community Engagement	Multiple workshops and events undertaken to over 600 participants. Many events were taken online
Assist with Planning and priority setting	Facilitators assisted with the development of 9 plans and strategies
Support on-ground projects	Constructed 72km fencing Planted over 77,000 seedlings
Securing Project Grants	Assisted the Network and its Groups to secure over \$430k in project funding across the region.

PARTNERS:

Landcare Groups and their members, East Gippsland Shire, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Far East Victoria Landcare Inc, Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee, East Gippsland Conservation Management Network, Trust For Nature, Greening Australia Gippsland, Parks Victoria, Birdlife Australia and BirdLife East Gippsland, EnviroDNA, Regional Roads Victoria, Australian Wool Innovation.

Understanding Predator Impacts on Migratory Waterbird Populations

FUNDED BY:

Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee, Community Grants Program

AIMS:

This project aimed to increase the understanding of the predator impact on migratory waterbirds in the wetlands of the Blond Bay Reserve to allow environmental managers to make informed decisions to protect and increase waterbird populations on the Gippsland Lakes. The project will utilise eDNA technology to gather information on the diet, habits and abundance of foxes and feral cats in Blond Bay Reserve.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Activity	Output
Collect and analyse 100 fox and cat scats, collected by citizen scientists.	109 scats collected over 4 collection days.
Undertake 3 engagement events for a total of 60 people	Due to covid restrictions and bushfire impact, the majority of scat was collected by scat detection dogs who were utilised instead of citizen scientists. 2 engagement events were held (one online) to 26 participants.
Produce 1 written report	One results report was completed.

PARTNERS:

EnviroDNA, Birdlife East Gippsland, Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Landcare Groups and their members, and interested community members.



Matt collects scats with the assistance of a specialist scat detection dog



Latham's Snipe captured on a monitoring camera



A fox detected during camera monitoring

Predator Impacts: Foxes in Blond Bay Reserve



Colloquially, foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) are known as 'garbage guts' – they are thought to eat anything and everything! But is this true? How much of an impact do they have on our native wildlife? What about migratory water-birds in our local Reserves? EGLN wanted to find out.

This project aimed to gather information on the diet, habits and abundance of foxes in Blond Bay Reserve near Bairnsdale.

What did we do?

Using a mix of camera monitoring (to gain information on predator-prey interactions), bird surveys (to check which bird species were present at the time) and scat analysis (DNA analysis would identify individual foxes and their dietary habits), we sought to find out just how many foxes were inhabiting the Reserve and what they were eating.



Challenges

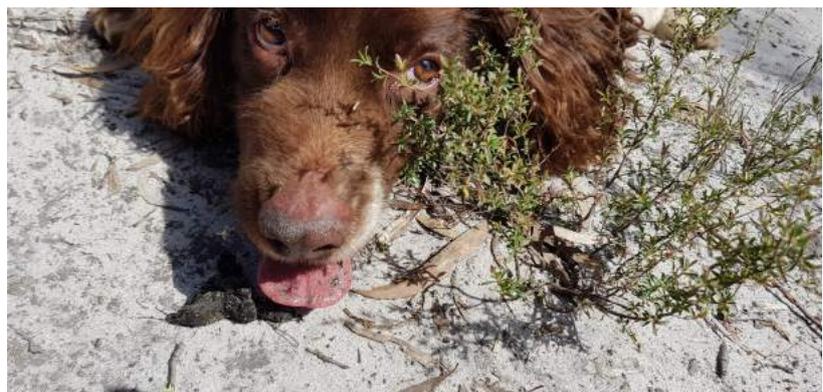


2020 was certainly a year that presented challenges to project management in East Gippsland! Bushfire and then Covid-19 Restrictions closed the Reserve for long periods of time and prevented volunteers accessing the area to undertake surveys and collect scats as planned. Unexpected rain events caused further cancellation of collection days. Even on days where collection was possible, those pesky scats proved elusive – Erin walked over 5km before finding ONE specimen of the correct species and age, and we needed 100!

A Different Collection Method

We needed to find scats so we decided to employ 'Scat dogs' Jaz and Sam from the Phillip Island Nature Parks to help us find them – and in just over 6 hours they'd found 109!

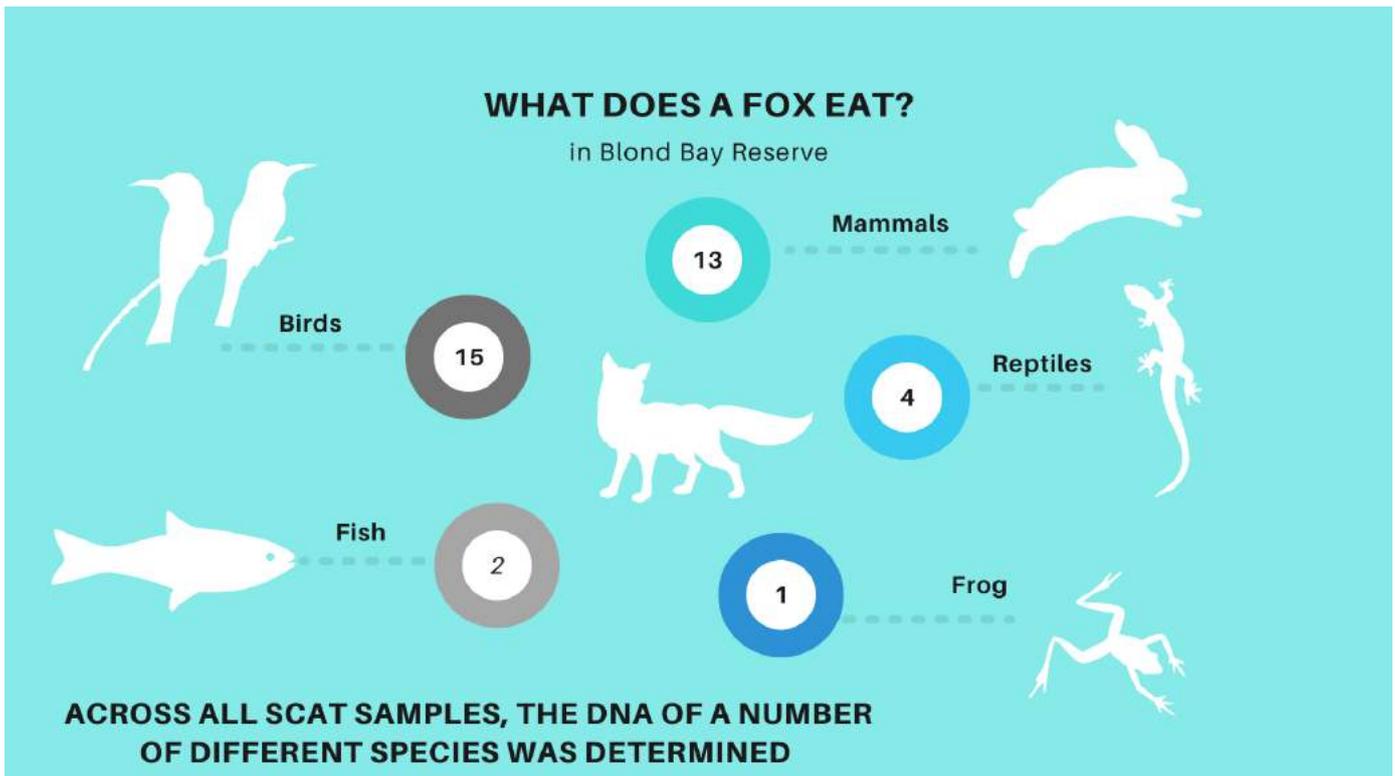
Despite major challenges, we have been able to put together a more comprehensive picture of the foxes of Blond Bay Reserve. 🐾 🐾



How many foxes are there?

Traditional trail camera monitoring took 963 images of foxes in the Reserve over 21 days. Although distinctions could be made between adults and cubs, none of the foxes were sufficiently distinctively marked to be sure of individual identity. And this is where the eDNA analysis is interesting. Although not all the scats were 'fresh' enough to extract the necessary DNA, lab results were able to determine that there were at least 13 different males and 10 different female foxes in Blond Bay at the time of scat collection. And the frequency of scats collected from each individual would suggest that there are at least 2 male and 3 female foxes are resident in the Bay.

What are the foxes eating?



As would be expected ... pretty much everything! The DNA results show that birds do make up a large proportion of the fox diet in the Reserve. Across all samples, the DNA of the following number of species was detected:

- 2 fish species, (Australian Bass, smallmouth hardyhead)
- 1 amphibian species, (Eastern Banjo Frog)
- 13 mammal species, (inc. swamp wallaby, deer, possum, sheep, rabbit, mouse, rat, kangaroo, chicken, cow)
- 4 reptile species (long-necked turtle, various skinks)
- 15 bird species (inc thornbills, robin, duck, kookaburra, wedge-tailed eagle and magpie)

The analysis highlighted the diverse and opportunistic diet of foxes (with plant and invertebrates also observed in scats). Due to bushfires and Covid restrictions, the majority of our samples were collected out of migratory bird season, and so while no migratory shorebirds were detected in the scats, such species may form a larger part of the fox diet during summer when migratory birds are in much greater abundance with breeding also occurring, providing greater opportunities for predation.

This project was funded by the Victorian State Government for the Gippsland Lakes.

VRAN Rabbits Stage 1

FUNDED BY:

Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN)

AIMS:

This project aimed to provide educational materials (including a 'Glovebox Guide', 'Rabbit Management Guide', and an 'Aboriginal Heritage Identification Guide') to all groups in the Network and create a Rabbit Feedback form to ascertain rabbit infestation densities and general rabbit control needs and information in each group zone. Mapping of rabbit areas based on the feedback forms and phone/email member consultation would be undertaken to ascertain the best strategic approach to rabbit control with the EGLN area (which will be undertaken in future stages of the project).

ACHIEVEMENTS

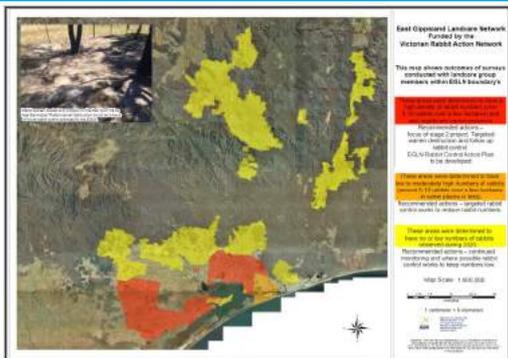
Activity	Output
Provide 3 educational guides to rabbit assessment to each EGLN Group (22 groups)	66 information booklets printed and distributed to Groups
Undertake 2 media communications to the broader community	2 communications undertaken (1 social media and one newsletter)
Create 1 map	1 colour-coded map produced to clearly identify areas of differing rabbit infestation.

PARTNERS:

Landcare Groups and their members and landholders.



Planted revegetation area and stock exclusion fencing



Fenced revegetation area deep ripped and ready for planting

The East Gippsland Dog Fight—Farmers Building the Barrier

FUNDED BY:

Australian Government: Communities Combatting Pests and Weeds Impacts During Drought

AIMS:

This multi-partner project aimed to support drought-stricken East Gippsland farmers to construct or retro-fit 76km of wild dog exclusion fencing and extend community awareness and knowledge through education.

ACHIEVEMENTS

This project aimed to stimulate the economy both through purchase of materials and hiring of local contractors and proved highly successful in this aim as over 90% of project funds were spent on on-ground works. Participating landholders reported rapid improvements in agricultural productivity due to reduced stock losses with no dog attacks since the completion of their fencing. Additional benefits were also widely reported by landholders. Of vital importance were the mental health benefits for landholders involved due to the reduction of the dog threat. This fencing has reduced landholder mental stress, increased agricultural productivity and reduced grazing pressure on pasture by non-stock animals.



Rebuilding exclusion fencing after bushfire



Landholders attend fencing information sessions at Gelantipy

Activity	Output
Construct 76km Wild Dog Fencing (Combination of new and Retro-fitted fencing)	36 landholders constructed 75km wild dog exclusion fencing (35km new fence / 40km retro-fit)
7 Wild Dog Control Information Events	3 Information events undertaken. 4 information videos produced in lieu of further Face-to-face events that were cancelled due to bushfire impact and covid restrictions.
Undertake community communication through multiple channels.	Multiple articles and press releases undertaken across various media including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-event advertising, updates and case studies in local press and radio. • DELWP Newsletter ‘Taking Control’ articles • EGLN Weekly Newsletter and social media project updates.

PARTNERS:

East Gippsland Shire Council, DELWP, Australian Wool Innovation, rural fencing suppliers and contractors, Landcare Groups and their members and landholders.

Wild Dog DeFence: How important is a fence?



Wild dogs are one of the major invasive animals threatening private land assets in regional Victoria.

Wild dogs have long been a major concern for farmers in our region, causing economic, emotional and psychological damage to landholders and their families. East Gippsland farming communities have rallied together to implement integrated wild dog control programs using techniques that include baiting and trapping. Interest in exclusion fencing has been increasing as a successful technique that is more acceptable to many in the community who are not directly impacted by wild dogs, as a socially acceptable non-lethal control method.

It was this interest that inspired this project. Working with 36 landholders in East Gippsland, 75km of 'wild dog exclusion' fencing was constructed with EGLN working in partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and the East Gippsland Shire.

Bushfire and Covid restrictions certainly caused issues with difficulties in obtaining both materials and contractors, but the DeFence project has

widespread acclaim from the participants. Despite high pressure from dogs, those who have constructed the fencing have noticed a profound difference in many areas of their farming lives.

Decreased stock losses:

Despite initial skepticism, the fences are doing all that they were required to do and more! One participant said that his fence paid for itself within 12 months thanks to a massive increase in lambing percentage, with double the number of lambs surviving. A fellow participant lost nearly \$20,000 worth of livestock to wild dogs in 2019. However, he has not had an attack since the exclusion fence was completed.

Other statements verified the success of this type of fencing;

I'd lost \$35,000 of sheep here over 2.5 years but it just stopped overnight when I turned the power on (to the fence).

I put my rams in here this year and they came out alive. I wouldn't have done it before.

(We know that calves were previously eaten by dogs but) we haven't had trouble at calving in 2 years now.

Although the success of the fencing could be measured purely in terms of the absence of wild dog attacks and a decrease of stock losses, there have been other benefits that are equally important.

Reduced Grazing Pressure:

When asked about the benefits of the fence a landholder reported, "not only have we kept the dogs out, but it's also shown me the impact browsers were having on my pastures. I no longer have a 70-metre ring of bare earth around the inside of my fence, now it's grass right to the fence line."

Another, whose land borders the bush and had always struggled with grazing pressure from creatures such as deer and kangaroos, reported; "I hadn't cut a bale off this paddock for 5 years before we put the fence up. This type of fencing is invaluable – you can see the difference between paddocks with this style of fencing – it's no longer grazed out. If I was fencing with the aim of putting a valuable crop on, I'd definitely choose exclusion fencing."

Change in animal behaviour:

The reduction in dog attacks not only affects human psyche, stock animals have also shown reaction to the change:

“They graze a lot freer, they’re a lot calmer rather than bunching up to protect themselves, both in the paddock and in the yards.”

Significant mental health benefits:

Perhaps the most significant finding when speaking to participants was the improved mental health benefits that can be attributed to this new fencing. Landholders expressed the feelings held over previous years;

“When the dogs were really bad here, they were definitely THE most pressing economic issue ... above all else ... (It’s) definitely not good for your head. Going out at 8 o’clock at night, midnight, 3 in the morning and never seen a dog but come back in the morning and there’d be 10 or 20 dead lambs – a formidable foe.”

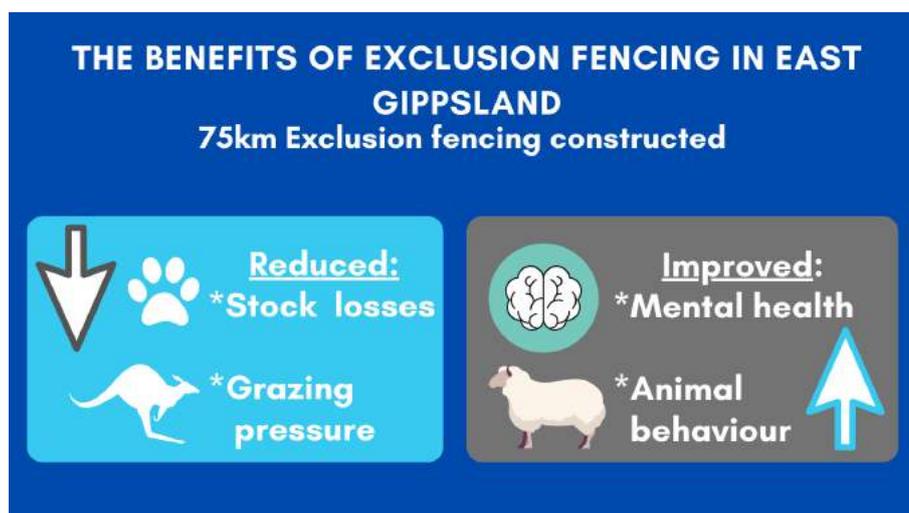
But when they had completed their fencing:

It makes a big difference to your mental state of mind, that’s for sure.

I went back to sleeping right through instead of waking up at 3 o’clock wondering how I could save my sheep.

The stress is gone – (no longer) wondering what you’d find in the morning

It can be hard to comprehend the impact of wild dog attacks when you don’t live through them yourself. This project demonstrates the benefits of a multi-partner approach to a common problem, where many different control methods are used across the community there are proven benefits not only for the economic viability of our farmers, but also to improve the mental health of local families.



This project was funded by the Australian Government through the Communities Combatting Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Program.



Topsoils

FUNDED BY:

Federal Government National Landcare Program

AIMS: A multi-partner, multi-year project promoting improved agricultural practices through enhanced soil management by East Gippsland farmers. The project utilises previously collected data sets of the chemical and physical properties of East Gippsland’s farming soils including trends in soil characteristics and key indicators of soil asset decline. Targeted extension programs, including demonstration sites, will involve the expertise of five regional delivery partners to provide farmers with improved knowledge and skills, and address barriers to practice change to enable on ground adoption.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Activity	Outputs to date
Hold 12 Community / Stakeholder events	<p>8 x Field Days held: (Participant numbers in brackets)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Field Day with Christine Jones (Stringers) (44) • Virtual Field Day with Christine Jones (Hamiltons) (43) • Virtual Field Day with Christine Jones (Read/Ribolli) (43) • Identifying Gippsland’s pasture plants (51) • Grazing management into summer & beyond (16) • Dung Beetles in East Gippsland (18) • Tools to assist in decision making (9) • Biological and foliar fertilisers (29) <p>4 x Workshops held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to choose cover crop species with Grant Sims (72) • New thinking on soil organic matter with Joel Williams (44) • Foliar sprays – Tips for a top response (35)
Complete 20 Soil tests	20 soil tests completed—2 soils, 18 plant tissue
Produce 12 communication materials	15 Communication materials published including 10 flyers and 3 media releases, 2 extension materials
On Ground Demonstrations / Trials	<p>Ongoing paddock demonstrations;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High Country – Crushed line versus pellet lime 2. Plains – Improving soil health 3. Foothills – Kikuyu grass feed value and management

PARTNERS:

Australian Government, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Southern Farming Systems, Agriculture Victoria, Far East Victorian Landcare, Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee, and Charles Sturt University



Dick Richardson explains soil characteristics



Field Capture and ID of Dung Beetles



Discussing cover crop mixes with Grant Sims

Assessing Landscape-Scale Impacts of Bushfire on Platypus

FUNDED BY:

Wires Landcare Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants

AIMS:

This project aimed to use environmental DNA techniques (eDNA) to assess the impacts of the recent bushfires on platypus populations across 6 major river basins in South-Eastern Australia. Recent pre-fire survey work undertaken by our collaborator, EnviroDNA, provided an ideal opportunity to assess bushfire impacts on this iconic aquatic species. Re-surveying sites that were sampled prior to the fires allowed us to quantify changes in platypus site occupancy and distribution. Importantly, the simple sampling methodology allowed community members to get involved in rigorous ecological science and take ownership of the project through citizen science.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Our original project plan was to sample 100 sites once. However, a better scientific model was to test twice to ascertain the length of impact, and this is what we achieved within the funding timeline. These results added evidence to the review that saw the platypus listed as vulnerable in Victoria in early 2021.

Activity	Outputs to date
Collect 100 water samples from sites across the region to undergo eDNA analysis	169 samples were collected across 2 testing seasons to enable a more vigorous scientific analysis (not all sites accessible due to ongoing post-fire access closures). 65 community citizen scientist volunteers involved.
Undertake 12 media publications	23 media publications undertaken including local press, internet news and radio interviews, social media and newsletter
Undertake 3 engagement events including training and community information sessions	3 online engagement events were undertaken in lieu of face-to-face events due to covid restrictions.

PARTNERS:

EnviroDNA, Far East Victoria Landcare, Landcare Groups and their members, community members.



Sample site at Butchers Creek



Citizen Scientists assist with sample collection



Sample site at Cann River

Black Summer Bushfires: Impact on Platypus?



The Black Summer Bushfires of 2019-20 devastated large tracts of land throughout South-Eastern Victoria. The impact to our bush and many species of plant and terrestrial animals was quickly seen. However, what about the impact to aquatic species such as the platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)? One line of thought is that water-based creatures have a 'buffer' from the direct impact of fire simply by being in water. Indeed, there have been thought to be multiple threats to platypus populations, but bushfire had not previously been considered a major threat. However, when their aquatic ecosystems suffer significant impact is there a longer-term impact of fire on such creatures?

EGLN are proud of their long-standing work in environmental works across our region, but, for us this was something new. This was to be scientific study with the assistance of citizen scientists and the results, while

sobering, were a great reminder that we can all play an important role in understanding and ultimately protecting the very special creatures that inhabit our area.

The issue

South-Eastern Victoria was traditionally seen as a stronghold for the iconic platypus, but had they survived the fires? If they had, the indirect, long-term impact on platypus could not be accurately ascertained as it has not been previously studied. For the first time, this project sought to rectify the lack of data using eDNA analysis.

What is eDNA?

Environmental DNA (eDNA) can be a highly sensitive and cost-effective method of determining platypus presence over large special areas by detecting traces of genetic material in the water. Water samples are collected at targeted sites and then analyzed.

What did we do?

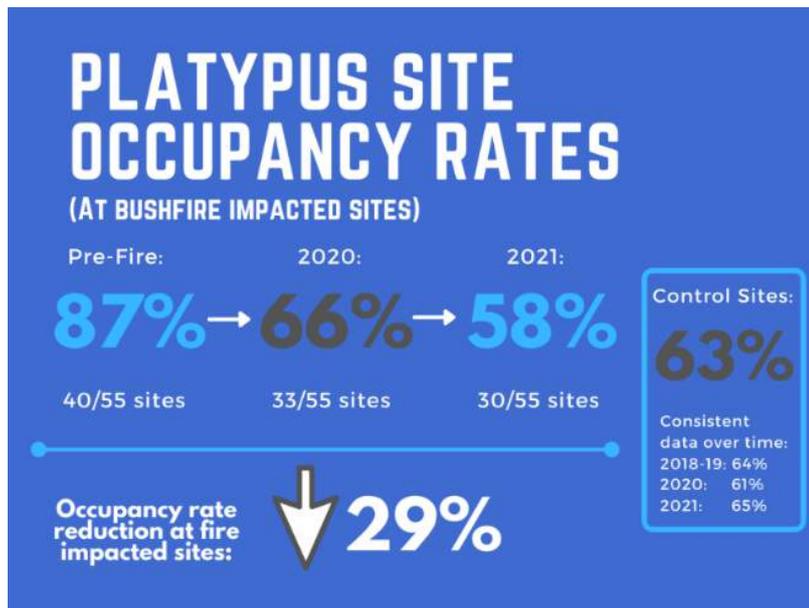
The project was able to leverage extensive systematic pre-fire data collected during 2018-19 that included a number of sites within the fire-affected area as well as sites outside the area that could be used as 'control' sites. For the first time, platypus occupancy could be directly compared pre- and post-fire.

We wanted to involve local citizen scientists – this study allowed community members to be involved and 'do something useful'. Many in the East Gippsland community were feeling lost and very unsure about how the bushfires had impacted wildlife and how they could help. This project provided a sense of purpose through the collection of water samples.



Covid restrictions nearly derailed us but with some tweaks, including flipping to online training, the project forged ahead.

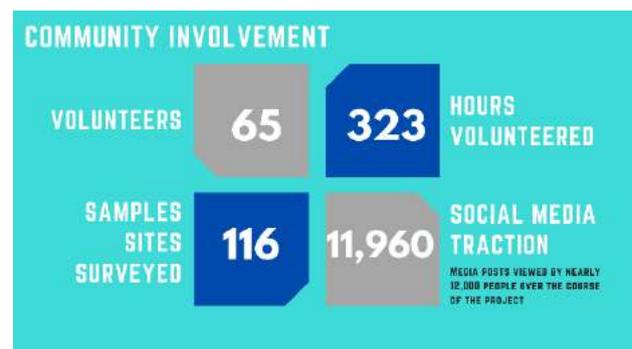


The results:

The results data needs to be interpreted with caution due to the relatively small sample size that precludes a rigorous analysis of the data, however, the results indicate that the 2019/20 bushfires had a significant negative impact on platypus populations in East Gippsland, and that those populations are not yet seen to be recovering. Declines may be as severe as 30% in the East Gippsland area, which was previously a platypus 'stronghold'.

For the first time, bushfires have been shown to have a negative impact on platypus populations and so should be considered one of their threats. It was information such as this that led to the declaration of the platypus as vulnerable in Victoria in January 2021.

One of the main highlights of this project was the involvement of citizen scientists who expressed great appreciation for being able to be involved in 'real science' that had meaning both for our local area and for the broader well-being of an iconic species. Indeed, this project model has now been extended into a broader study across the whole of Victoria - based on our model. Citizen scientists can get involved in this project too – just look up 'The Great Australian Platypus Search'!



This project was a step away from our 'usual' revegetation projects but vital for the future of biodiversity and the environment in our area, and a great way to interest volunteers in Landcare who may not necessarily have been previously engaged. There are many different ways to help the environment – you don't have to want to plant trees or live on a large property to get involved.

This project was funded by WIRES Landcare Wildlife and Recovery Grants Program 2020



Annual Financial Audit

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE

Your committee present this report on the Association for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Committee Members

The names of each person who has been a committee member during the year and to the date of this report are maintained in a register at the principal place of business of the Association and can be reviewed upon written request to the committee.

The committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Association during the financial year was that of promotion of environmental outcomes in East Gippsland through support to local Landcare Groups and seeking funds to support the activities of those groups. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Objectives

The short-term objective of the Association is to provide sound governance and financial oversight to ensure the ongoing viability of the Association.

The long-term objective is to have a sustainable support for local Landcare Groups to provide ongoing environmental protection and enhancement of the local area.

Strategies for achieving the objectives

To achieve its stated objectives, the Association has adopted the following strategies:

- Engage with the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to source suitable resources to achieve its objectives.
- Continually review potential funding sources and submit high quality applications for funding.
- Engage with local Landcare Groups to determine their priorities and identify ways to assist them in achieving their objectives.

Performance measures

The Association measures its performance through the use of both quantitative and qualitative benchmarks. The benchmarks will be used by the Committee to assess the financial sustainability of the Association and whether the Association's short-term and long-term objectives are being achieved.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under subdivision 60.40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* is set out on page 4 of this financial statement.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.



Peter Reefman
President



Vicki Leris
Treasurer

Dated this 15th day of September 2021



Kangaroo Grass (Themeda triandra)



An echidna

EAST GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INCORPORATED
ABN: 98 434 926 368

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Continuing operations			
Revenue	2	848,934	688,313
Other revenue	2	415,141	511,557
Administration expenses		(15,489)	(37,873)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(1,312)	(774)
Project delivery costs		(1,245,921)	(952,721)
Loss on sale of plant and equipment		-	(3,428)
Surplus before income tax		1,353	205,074
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
Surplus for the year		1,353	205,074
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax			
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,353	205,074
Surplus attributable to:			
Members of the Association		1,353	205,074
Surplus for the year		1,353	205,074
Total comprehensive income attributable to:			
Members of the Association		1,353	205,074
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,353	205,074

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	7(a)	562,905	821,768
Trade and other receivables	3	79,894	45,084
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		642,599	866,832
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	4	6,460	6,843
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		6,460	6,843
TOTAL ASSETS		649,059	873,675
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	69,254	28,358
Income received in advance	6	105,708	372,573
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		174,962	400,931
TOTAL LIABILITIES		174,962	400,931
NET ASSETS		474,097	472,744
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		474,097	472,744
TOTAL EQUITY		474,097	472,744



Lomandra Longifolia seed head.



Forest clematis (*Clematis aristata*)



Seedlings ready for planting

Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*)EAST GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK INCORPORATED
ABN: 98 434 926 368STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Retained surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2019	267,870	267,870
Deficit for the year	205,074	205,074
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive deficit for the year	<u>205,074</u>	<u>205,074</u>
Balance at 30 June 2020	<u>472,744</u>	<u>472,744</u>
Balance at 1 July 2020	472,744	472,744
Surplus for the year	1,353	1,353
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>1,353</u>	<u>1,353</u>
Balance at 30 June 2021	<u><u>474,097</u></u>	<u><u>474,097</u></u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants		548,912	827,812
Receipts from donations		382,300	468,739
Receipts from other income		31,283	54,580
Interest received		1,558	7,747
Payments to suppliers		(1,220,514)	(1,030,558)
Net GST received/(paid)		527	(64,899)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	7(b)	<u>(257,934)</u>	<u>253,421</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		-	912
Payments for plant and equipment		(929)	(1,633)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(929)</u>	<u>(721)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(258,863)	252,700
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		821,768	569,068
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	7(a)	<u><u>562,905</u></u>	<u><u>821,768</u></u>

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements cover the Association East Gippsland Landcare Network, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

Financial reporting framework

The Association is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Committee there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, these special purpose financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the requirements of section 60.40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC Regulation) and meet the needs of the members.

For the purposes of preparing the financial statements, the Association is a not-for-profit entity.

Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the Committee's reporting requirements under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Association has not assessed whether these special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards. The material accounting policies disclosed in note 1(i) that have not been assessed for compliance with Australian Accounting Standards include AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements, except the cash flow information, has been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement of fair value of selected noncurrent assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. Historical cost is generally based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. All amounts are presented in Australian dollars, unless otherwise noted.

Accounting Policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements, except as explained under changes in accounting policies.

a) Income Tax

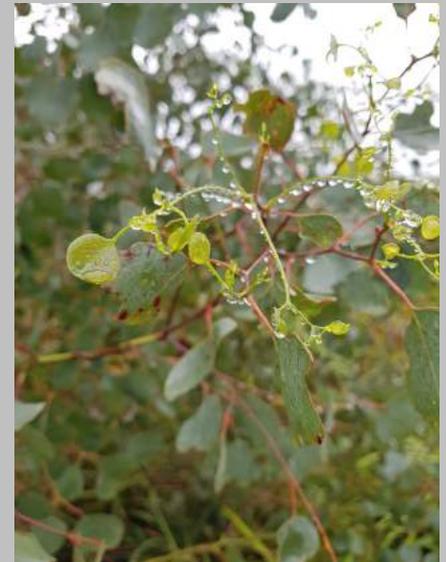
As the incorporated Association is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

b) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and, if applicable, bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

c) Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any provision for impairment



New eucalyptus growth



Regrowth on the Snowy River

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(CONTINUED)****(d) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment are brought to account at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the assets.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the entity and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the statement of comprehensive income during the financial period in which they are

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by Committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts. The cost of plant and equipment constructed within the Association includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment including capitalised lease assets, are depreciated over their useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation method and rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Class of Plant and Equipment	Depreciation rates	Depreciation method
Plant and equipment	7.5% - 40%	Diminishing value method

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each statement of financial performance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income.

(e) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and replacement cost, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.



New plant growth welcomes the Spring rains.



Crimson Bottlebrush (Callistemon citrinus)

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the incorporated association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(g) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- The assets are held by the Association to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The Association recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and cash equivalents
- receivables

A financial asset is derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The Association recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- Trade and other payables

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Offsetting financial instruments

Financial instrument assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the balance sheet when, and only when, the Association concerned has a legal right to offset the amounts and intend either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

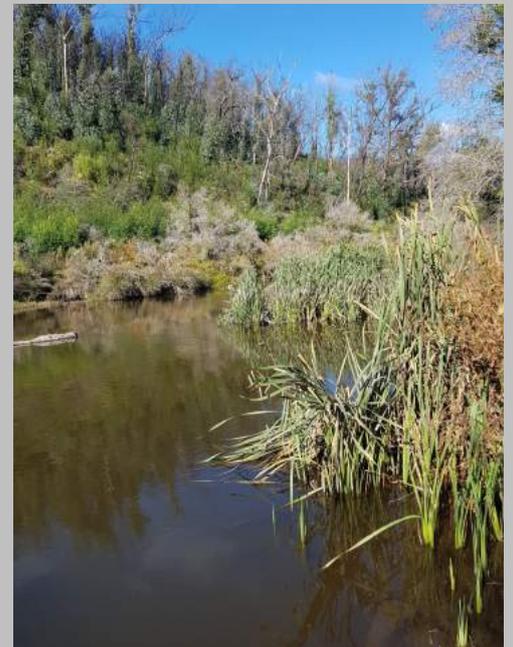
(h) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to reporting date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Contributions are made by the Association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred



Forest Clematis (Clematis aristate)



Regrowth after bushfire on the Buchan River .



A demonstration of steam weeding.



Common wombat captured on monitor camera footage.

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(i) Revenue

All grant income has been deferred upon receipt and not recognised as revenue until the related expenses are incurred, and has not been assessed for compliance with the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

Other revenue is recognised when received, or when the right to receive payment is established.

Donations are recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which, for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

(k) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The Committee evaluates estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association.

Key Estimates

i. Impairment

The Association assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the Association that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

No impairment has been recognised in respect of property, plant and equipment at reporting date

(l) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(CONTINUED)**

(m) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

During the current year, the Group has adopted all of the new and revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations applicable to its operations which became mandatory, with the exception of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities.

The adoption of these standards would have significantly impacted the recognition and measurement of transactions and the presentation and disclosures of the financial statements.

(n) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

Management assessment indicates that there are no new Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued but are not yet effective with an expected material impact on the Association's financial report in the period of initial application.



Seedlings growing in the Nursery.



Tree planting at Glenaladale.



Learning more about the Ramsar-Listed
Gippsland Lakes



Australian water dragon (*Intellagama lesueurii*)

Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
NOTE 2: REVENUE		
<i>Revenue from operating activities</i>		
- Grants	848,934	688,313
	<u>848,934</u>	<u>688,313</u>
<i>Other revenue</i>		
- Interest income	1,558	7,747
- Donations	382,300	458,739
- Other income	31,283	45,071
	<u>415,141</u>	<u>511,557</u>
Total revenue and other revenue	<u>1,264,075</u>	<u>1,199,870</u>
NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
<i>Current</i>		
Trade receivables	35,157	-
Net GST receivable	44,537	45,064
Total trade and other receivables	<u>79,694</u>	<u>45,064</u>
NOTE 4: PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
<i>Plant and equipment</i>		
At cost	15,191	14,262
Accumulated depreciation	(8,731)	(7,419)
	<u>6,460</u>	<u>6,843</u>

MOVEMENTS IN CARRYING AMOUNTS

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Plant and equipment \$	Total \$
2020		
Additions	10,324	10,324
Balance at beginning of the year	1,633	1,633
Disposals	(4,341)	(4,341)
Depreciation	(774)	(774)
Balance at end of the year	<u>6,842</u>	<u>(3,482)</u>
2021		
Balance at beginning of the year	6,842	6,842
Additions	930	930
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(1,312)	(1,312)
Balance at end of the year	<u>6,460</u>	<u>6,460</u>

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
NOTE 5: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade payables	69,254	22,281
Other payables	-	6,077
	<u>69,254</u>	<u>28,358</u>
NOTE 6: INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		
Current		
Unspent grants	105,708	372,573
	<u>105,708</u>	<u>372,573</u>
NOTE 7: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
<i>(a) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents</i>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash at bank	562,745	821,095
Cash on hand	160	673
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>562,905</u>	<u>821,768</u>
<i>(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operations with surplus for the year</i>		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,353	205,074
Non-cash flows in surplus for the year		
Loss on disposal of plant and equipment	-	3,428
Depreciation expense	1,312	774
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(34,630)	346,343
Increase/(decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	40,896	(59,799)
Decrease in income in advance	(266,865)	(242,399)
	<u>(257,934)</u>	<u>253,421</u>
NOTE 8: AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION		
Remuneration (excluding GST) of the auditor of the Association for:		
- Auditing of the financial statements	4,310	4,140
- Other services	1,500	1,500
	<u>5,810</u>	<u>5,640</u>
NOTE 9: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES		
There are no contingent liabilities at reporting date (2020: \$nil).		



Eastern Grey Kangaroo taken by a monitoring camera



Nest box installation at Nungurner

NOTE 11: RELATED PARTIES

Vicki Leris, a Committee Member of East Gippsland Landcare Network Incorporated, is also a Director of Wildseed Nursery. During the year ended 30 June 2021, Wildseed Nursery supplied goods and services to the value of \$54,971 on normal commercial terms and conditions.

NOTE 12: EVENTS AFTER REPORTING DATE

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

NOTE 13: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is:

574 Main Street

Bairnsdale VIC 3875



Kangaroo Grass (Themeda triandra)

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements

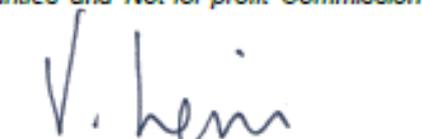
In the opinion of the members of the Committee the financial statements set out on pages 5 to 17 present a true and fair view of the financial position of East Gippsland Landcare Network Incorporated as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date. The members of the Committee declare that:

1. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that East Gippsland Landcare Network Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
2. The financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*:



Peter Freeman
President



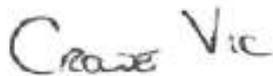
Vicki Leris
Treasurer

Dated this 15th day of September 2021

**AUDITORS INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SUBDIVISION
60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS
COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST GIPPSLAND
LANDCARE NETWORK INC.**

I declare that, in relation to our audit of the financial report of East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2021, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



CROWE VIC



GORDON ROBERTSON

Partner

Date: 15th September 2021

The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division, and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is the Crowe Australasia external audit division. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc. (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by the committee of management.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association has been prepared in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) 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 our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting responsibilities of the committee of management under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and *ACNC Act*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division, and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is the Crowe Australasia external audit division. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.

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Other Information

The committee of management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Association's Report by the Committee for the year ended 30 June 2021, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Committee of Management for the Financial Report

The committee of management of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The responsibility of the committee of management also includes such internal control as the committee of management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee of management is responsible for assessing the ability of the Association to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee of management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee of management is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are 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 our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit 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 this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We 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 our 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 Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by those charged with governance.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of those charged with governance's 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 Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association 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.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crowe Vic".

CROWE VIC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Robertson".

GORDON ROBERTSON
Partner

Dated at Warragul this 18th day of September 2021

The EGLN thanks its Partners and Investors:





