

Wimmera CMA

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Wimmera CMA





Landcare
Victoria

Landcare in the Wimmera report card: 2013-2014

Landcare is a key part of the Wimmera community's ongoing commitment to sustainable landscape change and improvement. This report summarises the achievements of Landcare and related community groups in the Wimmera region during the 2013-2014 financial year.

\$1.8m total from investors

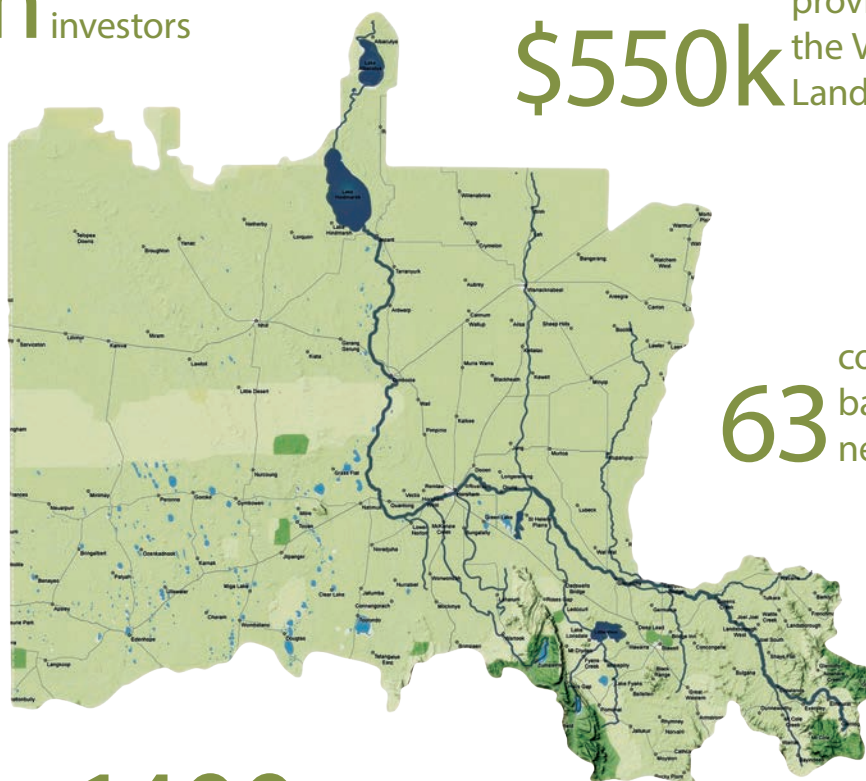
\$550k provided through the Victorian Landcare Program

290 hectares revegetated

63 community based groups/networks

1400 group members

1520 participants in events



Landcare support

In 2013-14, government at both the state and federal level invested in Landcare support positions in the Wimmera to strengthen community capacity to act on problems in the local landscape. These positions were mostly part-time, based in local communities and employed directly by groups. 5 positions were funded in the Wimmera under the Victorian Government's Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative. 3 positions were funded under the Australian Government's Regional Landcare Facilitator project. Facilitators play a very important role in the Wimmera, allowing enthusiastic farmers and other volunteers to increase and reduce the level of their involvement in group activity as the farming calendar demands. The Victorian Landcare Program also provided support for one Regional Landcare Coordinator based at Wimmera CMA, as well as the statewide Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator.

Victorian Landcare Grants

The Victorian Landcare Program provides opportunities for groups to access funding to support works and capacity-building through regionally-devolved grants. Funding allocations and principles for this project are implemented by Wimmera CMA. This year Victorian Landcare Grants in the Wimmera delivered \$184,000 in grants to local groups.

13-14 VLG group achievements:

- 533ha of weed control undertaken that linked local priorities to the Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy and supporting sub-strategies
- 2350ha of rabbit control undertaken
- 41ha of native indigenous vegetation planted
- 3km of fencing undertaken
- 442 event participants

Wimmera group health survey

Community groups and networks involved in Landcare were asked to assess their health:

Average score: 2.8/5

Trail blazing 3%

Rolling along smoothly 20%

Moving forward 40%

Struggling along - same dedicated core 27%

Just hanging in there 10%



Wimmera Landcare representatives at the 2013 Victorian State Landcare Awards

Sustainable garden designer inspires youngsters

By Wendy McInnes

The Wimmera Landcare team and Wimmera CMA ran a successful family event in Horsham in April that used an innovative approach to raising the profile of sustainability, the environment and the opportunities for community action.

International award-winning sustainable landscape designer Phillip Johnson spoke with passion about this work and the principles underpinning it at the event.

Phillip won the best-in-show award at last year's Chelsea Flower Show. The Wimmera landscape was a source of inspiration for his winning design. The family event was run in conjunction with a sustainable garden design competition for Wimmera school children. The response to this competition was overwhelming, with more than 200 high quality student entries received. Phillip judged the student designs and met and congratulated competition winners together with more than 300 local people who attended the event.

Attendees were inspired by Johnson's story, which focused on how he draws inspiration from nature to create landscape designs to suit Australia's

natural environment. Community partnerships played a key role in this success. The venue was provided by Holy Trinity Lutheran School in

Horsham, with catering by volunteer members of the local migrant family support group OASIS Wimmera. Local artist Lynette Moore contributed material to help with promotion. McKenzie Creek woodturner

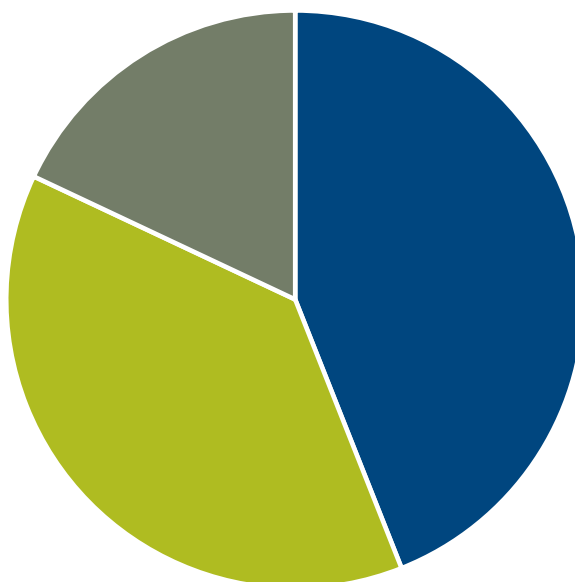
Brendan Stemp, who produced the ladder that featured in the winning Chelsea design, introduced Phillip at the event and spoke about their collaboration and friendship. Halls Gap Zoo wildlife handlers and Landcare presenters also attended to provide children with hands-on experience with some of the local animals that will benefit from urban habitat created by sustainable landscape design.

The event and student designs were so well received that Horsham's major shopping centre offered to help showcase the students' work to the public over the Easter holiday period. The winning student designs will be used to provide inspiration or the rejuvenation of public land identified by Horsham Rural City Council.

Wendy McInnes is the Horsham Local Landcare Facilitator. For further information email Wendy at Wendy.McInnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au



Investment



Victorian Government 44% Australian Government 38% Other sources 18%