

FACT SHEET: Landcare

What is Landcare?



Landcare brings landholders together to learn, identify, address and undertake land management works.

The concept of Landcare evolved in Victoria through an initiative of Joan Kirner, (then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands) and Heather Mitchell, (then president of the Victorian Farmers Federation).

As a Minister for Conservation in the Caine Government in 1985, Joan Kirner came to learn quickly that there was a pressing need to develop a program that would reverse the degradation of farmland, public land and our waterways.

With the generous support of community members, farmers and departmental officers, Heather Mitchell and Joan Kirner were able to launch 'Landcare' in a small town in central Victoria in 1985. Further information about the growth of Landcare can be found on the Landcare Australia Limited website.

Landcare groups work together to protect and enhance natural resources on private land for the benefit of the whole community.

In Nillumbik, Landcare activities usually occur on broad-acre farmland, privately owned bushland, rural-residential land, Crown land licensed to private landholders and roadside verges within the Shire.

Landcare groups are a great source of information about local land management issues. Members have a wealth of knowledge about their local catchment and can provide landholders with land management information, technical advice and even funding opportunities.

Landcare groups in Nillumbik

There are currently 12 Landcare groups in the Shire of Nillumbik. Most of them organise regular field days, working bees, social events or information sessions with guest speakers.

They also participate in other activities such as:

- revegetation projects
- weed eradication
- eradicating rabbits and other vermin
- preventing soil erosion and rehabilitating eroded soils
- observing native wildlife
- developing nursery skills
- developing pasture management skills
- community programs such as Waterwatch
- educating schools and new residents
- environmental group forums and other networking opportunities.

These activities and events are usually publicised in the newsletters of individual Landcare groups or on local community notice boards.

The groups have particular skills in controlling pest animals and plants, and they regularly conduct control programs. Members tend to have a great deal of knowledge about pest problems and an equally great connection with their communities.



North Warrandyte and Dunmoochin Landcare groups have community indigenous nurseries which are used for plant propagation. The Stringybark Nursery at St Andrews is a bushfire recovery initiative run jointly by St Andrews, Arthurs Creek and Strathewen Landcare groups.

Strathewen, St Andrews, Christmas Hills and Arthurs Creek Landcare groups contributed to recovery efforts after the 2009 fires through the Nillumbik Natural Environment Recovery Working Group, coordinating on-ground works across different land tenures.

For current contact details for the Landcare groups please contact Nillumbik Shire Council's Land Management Team on 9433 3316 or see Council's website.

Useful links

St Andrews Landcare Group
www.standrewslandcare.org.au

Strathewen Landcare Group
<http://www.strathewenlandcare.org.au/>

Dunmoochin Landcare Group
<http://portphillipwesternport.landcarevic.net.au/Dunmoochin>

Arthurs Creek District Landcare Group
www.acdlg.blogspot.com

Christmas Hills Landcare Group
<http://portphillipwesternport.landcarevic.net.au/ChristmasHills/>

Victorian Landcare Gateway
<http://www.landcarevic.net.au/>

Landcare Australia Limited
<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/>

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority www.ppwcma.vic.gov.au

