

Draft Minutes Annual General Meeting 2023 Of Landcare Victoria Inc.

19 May 2023
Zoom Teleconference



Preamble

Andrew Maclean welcomed attendees at 11.00 am and explained how participants could engage in the meeting through use of the Zoom conference, and how voting would be organised.

Andrew introduced Jane Carney, Chair of Landcare Victoria Inc (LVI).

Welcome and apologies

Jane Carney, Chair of Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) and of the Annual General Meeting, opened the meeting and welcomed delegates, members and guests present to the 37th Annual General Meeting of Landcare Victoria Inc.

Jane welcomed meeting participants and acknowledged and thanked guests for their attendance.

Jane also acknowledged the Traditional Owners of country throughout Victoria and on behalf of the meeting paid respects to their elders and ancestors.

Present

Adrian Tyler	Rupanyup VFF Landcare Group
Alicia Merriam	Yarrilinks Inc. / Lismore Land Protection Group
Amanda Grace	Landcare Victoria Inc
Andrea Montgomery	Landcare Victoria Inc
Andrew Maclean	Landcare Victoria Inc
Anthony Griffiths	Greta Valley Landcare Group Inc
Belinda Brennan	Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Inc
Beth Ripper	Landcare Victoria Inc
Chris Hibburt	Newfield Valley Landcare Group
Chris Ryan	Strath Creek Landcare Group Inc
Christine Kilmartin	Castlemaine Landcare Group
Claire Hetzel	Landcare Victoria Inc
Danny Pettingill	Landcare Victoria Inc
Daryl Hook	Anderson Inlet Landcare Group
David Cummings	Mountain Rivers Landcare Group
Dawn Parker	Far East Victoria Landcare
Dr. Fiona Davis	Farmers for Climate Action
Eric Smith	Springsure Hill Landcare Group
Fiona Cole	Lismore Land Protection Group

Geoff White	Red Hill South Landcare Group
Graeme George	Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare Group
Heike Dunn	Barrabool Hills Landcare Group
	Mornington Peninsula & Western Port Biosphere Reserve
Isabelle Higgins	Foundation Ltd
	Mitta to Murray Landcare Inc. / Wisers Creek Talgarno Landcare
James de Hennin	Group
Jileena Cole	Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group
John Delpratt	Woorndoo Chatsworth Landcare Group
Juanita Graham	N/A
Karen Garth	Yarra Ranges Landcare Network / Friends of Sassafras Creek
Kathryn Williams	Werribee River Association Inc
Kaye Rodden	Friends of the Barwon Inc
Kerri Robson	Gecko CLaN Inc (Broken Catchment Landcare Network)
Marilyn Olliff	Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc
Patrick O'Halloran	Little River Community Landcare Group Inc
Paul Reser	Myrtleford and District Landcare and Sustainability Group Inc.
Pieter Mourik	Wooragee Landcare Group
Rob Fallon	Northern Yarra Landcare Network
Robyn Gillespie	Andersons Creek Landcare
Ron Sawyer	Nangana Landcare Network
Rose Mildenhall	Yinnar Yinnar South Landcare Group
Ross Colliver	Riddells Creek Landcare Group
Sarah Biggs	Ashbourne Landcare Group
Sarah Vella	Landcare Victoria Inc
Sharleen Sharp	Turtles Albury Wodonga
Susan Anderson	Bunyip Landcare Group Inc
Susan Campbell	Warby Range Landcare Group Inc
Tom Day	Upper Yarra Landcare Inc
Vicki Leris	East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc

Apologies

Peter Devonshire	Gippsland Agroforestry Network Landcare Group
Phil Horner	East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc / Friends of Oneonta
Lance Jennison	Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party
Christine Brooke	Sutton Grange Landcare Group Inc / Connecting Country (Mount Alexander Region) Inc
Elizabeth Anthony	Friends of Turtons Creek

Guest Speaker – Dr Fiona Davis Farmers for Climate Action

The Chair welcomed Dr Fiona Davis, CEO of Farmers for Climate Action, noting that she is herself a Farmers for Climate Change Fellow.

Dr Davis spoke about the work of Farmers for Climate Action, including recent successes in influencing Australian Government policy regarding climate change and agriculture, including the establishment of Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator roles in the NRM bodies that will have a role in climate change extension. She also spoke about the bi-partisan approach Farmers for Climate Action takes in engagement with Ministers and parliamentarians. She spoke of the

strength of their influence based on their large membership and the skills of their board and staff.

Dr Davis noted the very important synergies between the work of Farmers for Climate Action and Landcare. Farmers for Climate Action has joined with the National Landcare Network with an MOU.

The chair thanked Dr Davis for her presentation on behalf of the meeting.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting were circulated with the notice of meeting.

Resolution:

That the minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Landcare Victoria Inc. held at online on 20 May 2022 be approved.

Moved: Karen Garth

Seconded Alice Knight

There being no dissent, the Chair declared the resolution **CARRIED**

Chair's Report

The Chair presented her report as follows:

Happy Volunteer Week. Welcome and thank you for attending the Landcare Victoria 2023 Annual General Meeting. As I have listened to many volunteers around the state being interviewed over radio and television this week, I recognize the same commitment that I see throughout the Landcare community.

You are all passionate advocates for your local environment, providing essential knowledge to your communities that increases their understanding of the natural environment and supports positive practice change. Aside from the educational and physical work, Landcare also provides a safe and collegiate place for community members to socialize, whilst making a positive impact to their own environment.

Once again grassroots Landcarers have had a very busy year, with many still catching up on projects delayed by the pandemic.

LVI has been very active as well, with a number of important initiatives and projects in progress, some of which will have a major impact on the future of Landcare.

These Initiatives include:

- *The Landcare Plan, of which the first draft is now on the LVI website for members and stakeholders to view and comment.*
- *Advancing Landcare Pilot Program funded by RE Ross Trust designed to help strengthen the organisational and governance capacities of groups, including the Professional Landcarer Knowledge & Skills Framework, and a series of workshops webinars and training materials.*

We are also in the process of updating the LVI Constitution - We thank you for your contribution through the consultation and engagement process, whether it was through the survey, a webinar or directly via written submission. We listened to your recommendations and concerns and have been able to incorporate changes that directly address them.

We had planned to bring LVI's new constitution before the membership at this AGM, however we have elected to take some extra time to ensure members are satisfied. The draft constitution is now available on our website and we will shortly begin promoting and explaining the changes.

New Futures for Victorian Landcare is an exciting new project funded by the Ian Potter Foundation and the Natural Resources Conservation League. The project aims to support the participation of the landcare community in the emerging green finance market.

Apart from the influence these projects will have on the business and action of Landcare, they represent a growing capacity for LVI to partner and collaborate with government, fellow NRM's, philanthropics and the university sector to design and deliver new concepts that help landcare adapt to the changing government policy and environmental markets.

I would like to acknowledge and extend my sincere thanks to our partners. The generous philanthropic support from the Rendere Trust (Phillipson family) and Upotipotpon Foundation (Crothers family) over the last three years has underpinned the growth in our capacity and led to many of our new initiatives. This support has facilitated the development of important new relationships and helped us build stronger partnerships. We are grateful for the financial support of DEECA, RE Ross Trust, Natural Resources Conservation League and the Potter Foundation.

My sincere thanks to our hardworking and passionate Landcare Victoria staff who are devoted to supporting the Landcare cause. And to my fellow Board Directors who not only put in many hours in support of LVI, but also continue to support their local groups and networks. I acknowledge the contribution and thank both Deb Shea and Danny Pettingill, whose terms on the board have now concluded.

The groundwork has been laid for an exciting year ahead and we look forward to continuing to advocate for and support the work of the landcare community.

We thank you for your support.

The Chair invited questions regarding her report. Patrick O'Halloran enquired about the outcome of Landcare Victoria's policy advocacy prior to the last State election. Jane and the CEO advised that although all the parties briefed expressed warm support for landcare, none made any specific policy announcements in support. Landcare Victoria continues to work with government officials on the allocation of funding and policy support for landcare.

Resolution:

That the Chair's Report be accepted.

Moved: Patrick O'Halloran

Seconded: Danny Pettingill

There being no dissent, the Chair declared the motion carried **CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report

John Birse spoke the Treasurer's Report, available in the Annual Report at the Landcare Victoria website: [Annual reports \(landcarevictoria.org.au\)](https://www.landcarevictoria.org.au/annual-reports).

He advised that total revenue increased by \$543,316 compared to 2021 and that Landcare Victoria achieved an operating result of \$390,270. This is the first operating profit achieved for

