



LANDCARE

NT

Annual Report 2016-17



About Us

Landcare NT is the peak body representing Landcare groups in the Northern Territory. It is a member of the National Landcare Network which is made up of the landcare networks from each state and territory across Australia.

The purpose of Landcare NT is to represent, strengthen, support and grow the Northern Territory's community Landcare movement to improve the health of the natural environment and working landscapes in the interests of the community and future generations.

Management Committee

Chair/Public Officer/Secretary: Sue McKinnon

Vice-Chair: vacant

Treasurer: Camilla Osborn (Centralian Land Management Association)

Central Australia Representative: Sunnil Dhanji (Alice Springs Landcare Group)

Top End Representative: Plaxy Purich (Holtze Landcare Group)

Gulf and Savannah Representative: Clair O'Brien (Roper River Landcare Group)

Tablelands Representative: Angela Carpenter/Anne Alison /Andy Bubb (Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association)

Executive Officer: Anna Boustead/Justine Elder

Contact Us

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ABN 28 864 970 579

Acknowledgements

Landcare NT acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands of the Northern Territory who have always carefully managed the lands on which we all live.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal elders past and present, who continue to provide a wealth of expertise and guidance to land and sea management in the Northern Territory.

Members

- Roper River Landcare Group
- Rapid Creek Landcare Group
- Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group
- Friends of East Point
- Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group
- Friends of Mitchell Creek
- Centralian Land Management Association
- Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association
- Alice Springs Landcare Group
- Holtze Landcare Group
- McMinns Lagoon Reserve Association
- Friends of Fogg Dam
- Olive Pink Botanic Gardens Landcare Group
- Victoria River & District Conservation Association
- Katherine Landcare Group

Associate Members

- Greening Australia NT
- Conservation Volunteers Australia NT
- Pew Environmental Trusts
- Environment Centre NT
- Larrakia Nation



Landcare NT is supported by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Network

Chair's Report

Sue McKinnon

The year 2016-2017 has been another year of activity and change for Landcare NT as a part time incorporated community organisation representing Landcare groups across the Territory.

There have been staff changes during the year with our Co-Ordinator, Anna Boustead heading off on maternity leave in May and our current Co-Ordinator - Justine Elder-taking over the role for a 6-month contract to the end of October 2017. Justine was selected from an experienced field of Landcare and NRM job applicants in April.

During the year, in my role as peak body Chair of Landcare NT and as the National Landcare Network (NLN) NT Director I have represented the NT's Landcare perspective to my fellow national board members. Both our NLN Members Council and myself have contributed to the wider national Landcare discussions via regular phone hookups and face to face meetings. A wealth of knowledge is gained through our national engagement with well-established interstate Landcare associations via our NLN membership. This contributes to our fledgling Landcare NT Association development.

Landcare NT has continued to fully engage with the NLN throughout the national body's transition during 2016 from a Queensland based community association to its present status of a Company Limited by Guarantee. There is still more change ahead for the NLN with a Merger at the Federal Government's request - with Landcare Australia Ltd (LAL). The merger is expected to be completed by March 2018.

I will provide more details about this at our AGM following my return from the first merger talks between the NLN and LAL Boards.

Over the last 12 months, NLN National Chair, Terry Hubbard and our CEO, Jim Adams, have been very active in lobbying the Federal Government to allocate increased funding to the Landcare community sector from the LNP Mk2 and the '100 million backpacker tax'. It has been a wait and see situation with the funding allocation remaining still unclear at the end of the financial year 2016-2017.

Meanwhile we have had the benefit of a further 2 years of Federal funding via a sub contract with NLN which continues to June 2018. We receive \$200,000 over the two-year period providing us with financial cover for Landcare NT's basic operations such as employing a Coordinator for 3 days a week; support for NT Landcare group open days; advocacy on behalf of and consultation with the NT Landcare community for our continuous development and also to contribute to decision-making at the national level through the NLN.

Landcare NT is continually growing its partnerships with other NT organisations in the natural resource management and environmental fields, such as Territory NRM, Greening Australia and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) so as to engage more people in caring for their local environment. To this end, Landcare NT is proud to have provided sponsorship to the TNRM 2016 and 2017 Conferences, which are an important forum for landcarers and other natural resource managers across the Territory to share their diverse skills and knowledge.

With input from its members, Landcare NT produced a Policy Position Paper prior to the NT election held in August 2016 which has also proven useful during 2016-2017 to present Landcare NT's viewpoint at other NT wide forums. Landcare NT will continue

to advocate on behalf of its members to improve avenues of support and resources for Landcare groups, along with better support for natural resource management and conservation in general.

Our AGM was held in November 2016 and four Landcare NT Management Committee Meetings were held during the year. Minutes of these meetings are available to members on request. Our financial records have been audited and are presented at the back of this report. The delay in the 2016/17-18 funding cycle between June and September brought on by the Federal election was fortunately compensated by an underspend during the 2016 year. This allowed Landcare NT to extend its existing funding agreement with the Australian Government until September 30 2016.

I commend our former Executive Officer, Anna Boustead, for her commitment to establishing and strengthening Landcare NT's role as the peak Landcare network in the Northern Territory during the 2016-17 financial year.

I would also like to thank Justine Elder for her steady hand in co-ordinating and growing Landcare NT's business in the closing months of 2016-17.

A big thank you to my fellow Committee Members for your patience, input, and efforts in going above and beyond in your continuing commitment to Landcare NT.



LNT Chair Sue McKinnon working hard in the heat at the Friends Of Fog Dam Wetlands Community Day

Coordinator's Report

Justine Elder

I started as Coordinator of Landcare NT at the end of April 2017, and despite working in Landcare and NRM previously in NSW, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. Since joining Landcare NT as its only staff member, I have been inspired, and humbled, by the persistence and dedication of the people in community Landcare to caring for the land, and the ways in which Landcare NT works to support them, despite being such a small organisation.

As a very young organisation, Landcare NT has continued to evolve. The 2016-2017 financial year was one in which Landcare NT notched up many achievements of which it can be proud. As I was only with Landcare NT for a small part of the year, much of what is reported below was done by others, particularly under the watch of previous coordinator Anna Boustead.

In October 2016, Landcare NT signed a “Subcontractor Agreement” with the National Landcare Network (NLN) for delivery of the project “Maximising Value from Investment in Community Landcare Networks”. The National Landcare Program funds this project, and the NLN is required to distribute funds to its members, the state and territory Landcare peak bodies, to ensure community Landcare groups are supported. This funding ensured operating funding for Landcare NT until the end of June 2018. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Australian Government which will allow our important work to continue.

Landcare NT continued to operate this year with one staff member, a part time coordinator. After the new funding arrangement commenced, Landcare NT retained the services of Brian Board (Landcare Tasmania’s Finance officer) on a monthly contract basis to assist in keeping our financial records, reports, budgets and payments up to date.

Landcare NT is a membership based organisation with an incredible diversity in its membership, in how groups and individuals organise themselves, as well as in the range of land management issues they address.

The network has grown to 15 member Landcare groups working across different landscapes and tenures in the Northern Territory. We have also added 5 Associate Member organisations who share a common ethic of community driven planning and actions to achieve sustainable land management outcomes in both natural and working landscapes.

From our member groups a General Committee of 7 people is elected. Its role is to determine the strategic direction of the organisation. The Committee saw some turnover during the financial year due to newly elected officers at our AGM and maternity leave. It met 4 times in 2016-2017, as well as an AGM for the previous financial year held in November 2016. This reflects the significant workload and agenda of Landcare NT for the year. In addition to Committee meetings, the members also volunteer time on sub-committees and working groups, review documents out of session, and participate in the National Landcare Network.

Landcare NT has taken its advocacy role seriously.

- We submitted a successful EOI to join NTG Darwin Harbor Advisory Committee on behalf of Coordinator of Landcare NT
- Landcare NT was well represented on the NLN Board by our committed Chair Sue McKinnon, who is one of the eight Directors of the National Landcare Network. Sue participated in Monthly NLN board meetings including 2 face to face meetings during the year. Our Treasurer, Camilla Osborn, and myself (previously Anna Boustead) are both privileged to be a part of the NLN Members Council, where we are able to provide in depth advice and opinions based on the experiences and needs of our members during monthly meetings. It has been very useful learning from the experience of Landcarers in other states and territories who are extremely generous with their time and knowledge. Through these roles we have been able to advocate on our members behalf on many issues, including the new NLP design and allocation of funds from the \$100M allocated to grass roots Landcare from the axing of the Green Army program.
- Landcare NT participated in monthly WANTSA Committee meetings as a part of our former funding & reporting arrangements with the Federal Government up until October. Since the new contract has begun we now voluntarily meet with

the Landcare peak bodies of WA & SA to share experiences and strategies. This is of great assistance particularly due to our small size, and enables us to work collaboratively with bigger organisations.

- Landcare NT developed a Policy Position Paper for use during the NT 2016 election. We also submitted this paper to the new government's Economic Development Framework consultations.
- We met with NT Minister for the Environment Lauren Moss to discuss the needs of our members and association.
- Sent letters to Ministers Frydenberg and Joyce re: \$100mill funding commitment to Landcare.

In order to service the needs of our members we have been working on designing and securing funding for several projects:

- Bulk Insurance - commissioned a report from NLN on different insurance options that may be suitable for the NT groups. We have settled on the NSW model and are currently working on joining their bulk insurance project to supply our members with cheaper and more comprehensive insurance designed for the work of Landcare groups.
- The Landcare NT committee was committed to developing an education based resource for schools and junior Landcare groups. This resulted in us participating in a Darwin based Environmental education working group made up of many stakeholders with a common interest and joining AAEE (Australian Association for Environmental Education). We formulated a project plan for 'Landcare Links for Learning' with support from the working group members, and have been pursuing funding for this project.
- Landcare Month Project.

We promoted Landcare in the NT in many ways.

- We celebrated Landcare week in 2016 on several fronts. We provided media and coordination support to Bushcare Major Day Out including a bird talk with McMinn's Lagoon Reserve Association. We also attended the Barkly Field Day at Newcastle Waters, Visited Mangarrayi Rangers, and Clair O'Brien at Roper River LC, and participated in Threatened Species Day in Darwin. To top it off we attended NLN meetings and Landcare conference in Melbourne in September.
- Landcare NT has continued to promote our work and support groups via various communication strategies. We developed and printed collateral for LNT (brochures, business cards, magnets). In April we launched our new website with an event at Parliament House sponsored by the speaker Kezia Purick. This complements the Facebook page that was launched the previous October. Now members can keep up-to-date with Landcare NT events and activities, funding opportunities, or promote their own activities on both our new website (www.landcarent.org.au) and Facebook page (Landcare NT)
- We made a presentation at the TNRM 2016 conference, and at the TNRM Southern Forum.
- Landcare NT provided several member groups with signage for their sites. This is a project that is continuing.

We have responded to various requests for assistance by members, including attending 30th Birthday celebrations for Friends of Fogg Dam (Art Exhibition), and

FOFD's night walk and wetlands day. We also attended working bees at Ludmilla Creek, and Casuarina Coastal Reserve, and pursued funding for training needs of groups (unsuccessfully). We also published a suite of policy templates suitable for the use of Landcare groups on our website to assist groups with their governance.

While Landcare NT has taken many steps forward in the last 12 months, it has also faced, and dealt with, a few difficult issues, including retaining a coordinator for a significant amount of time, ensuring its members are truly engaged, looking for and attracting sustainable funding for projects and operations in a constantly changing funding environment. These sorts of issues will continue to arise - that is the reality of running any organisation. The challenge is to see issues and problems as opportunities to learn, adapt and move forward - to be a better, more successful, and effective organisation because of them. Moving forward Landcare NT will enter its next phase through the next iteration of its strategic plan and start to move towards autonomous funding solutions so that it can support its members to do their important work well into the future.



Coordinator Justine Elder taking her job seriously & putting her life on the line - looking for Waterbugs in McMinn's Lagoon

Treasurer's Report

Camilla Osborn

This year has been a period of consolidation for Landcare NT following the signing of our new subcontract for operational funding with the National Landcare Network. During this time of change Landcare NT has continued to deliver on its goals and vision while managing its financial affairs in a professional and independent manner.

The National Landcare Network (NLN) managed Landcare NT's funds prior to 30 September 2016, but following our new funding arrangements, Landcare NT has been working with NLN towards achieving independence of our financial management and we are grateful to Finance Officer Brian Board (from Landcare Tasmania) for assisting us with this process. I am happy to report that after considerable effort by the Management Committee and Coordinator, Landcare NT's financial policies and procedures and banking arrangements are now fully operational.

Our finance officer appointed an auditor, Michael Muller, for the 16/17 year (please see final report attached). On October 4th, 2017 the LNT Management Committee endorsed the Auditor's report from Michael Muller for the 16/17 year and requested that this is

put to members as part of Landcare NT's Annual Report to be presented at its 16/17 Annual General Meeting.

Landcare NT's financial position was \$27,659 as at 30 June 2016. These funds were remaining from the previous funding contract with the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy which was extended by agreement with the Department and fully expended as at 30 September 2016.

The contract extension enabled us to bridge the gap in funding brought on by the Federal election until the new funding agreement was finalized in October 2016.

I am pleased to report that Landcare NT has now secured basic operational funding of \$190,000 until June 2018 from the Australian Government through the NLN.

As at 30 June 2017, the net result of the association for the relevant financial year was a \$4,449 loss. This can be explained by the timing of the next funding payment (due September 2017) in relation to fixed payments already committed for the calendar year, and some double up of wages which occurred during the transition between former coordinator going on annual leave followed by unpaid maternity leave, and our new coordinator starting.

The budget approved by the LNT committee for the next financial year will rectify this shortfall.

Lastly, this will be my final Treasurer's report. Due to my new family responsibilities I am no longer able to devote the time that the Treasurer's position deserves and have decided regretfully to tender my resignation. I leave the Executive with a heavy heart but will always be a Landcarer at heart.

I refer members to our audited financial statements for further details.



Some of the Central Australia Members (L-R) Andy Vinter (Alice Springs Landcare) Camilla Osborn (CLMA & LNT Treasurer) Justine Elder (LNT Coordinator), Ian Coleman (OPBG Landcare)

Special Purpose Financial Report

for

Landcare NT Inc.
ABN 32 771 567 640

for the year ended

30 June 2017

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Independent Audit Report

To the members of Landcare NT Inc.
ABN 32 771 567 640

Scope of Audit

I, Michael J Müller, have audited the attached special purpose financial report of Landcare NT Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2017 as set out on pages 2 to 5.

The Management Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information it contains and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Act* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

I have also conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion to the members of the association on their preparation and presentation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in note 1, is appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members and to satisfy the reporting requirements of the *Associations Act*. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for reliance on this audit report or the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. The procedures included examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1 so as to present a view consistent with my understanding of the financial position and performance of Landcare NT Inc. as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Landcare NT Inc. and the results of its operations at 30 June 2017 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Signed



Dated

19 September 2017

Landcare NT Inc.

ABN 32 771 567 640

Statement by the Management Committee

for the year ended 30 June 2017

In our opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 2 to 5, being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2017 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;
- (b) the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

We confirm as follows:

- (a) The name of each committee member of the association during the relevant financial year were:

Chair/Public Officer/Secretary:	Sue McKinnon
Treasurer:	Camilla Osborn (Centralian Land Management Association)
Top End Representative:	Plaxy Purich (Holtze Landcare Group)
Gulf and Savannah Representative:	Clair O'Brien (Roper River Landcare Group)
Tablelands Representative:	Anne Alison /Andy Bubb (Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association)
Central Australia Representative:	Sunil Dhanji (Alice Springs Town Landcare Group)
Executive Officer:	Anna Boustead/Justine Elder

Landcare NT Inc.

ABN 32 771 567 640

Statement by the Management Committee ctd

for the year ended 30 June 2017

(b) The principal activities of the association during the relevant financial were:

Landcare NT is the peak body representing Landcare groups in the Northern Territory. It is a member of the National Landcare Network which is made up of the landcare networks from each state and territory across Australia.

The purpose of Landcare NT is to represent, strengthen, support and grow the Northern Territory's community Landcare movement to improve the health of the natural environment and working landscapes in the interests of the community and future generations.

(c) The net result of the association for the relevant financial year was a \$ 4,449 loss.

Signed at 13 Gordon St Parap NT

on 19/9/2017

President



Treasurer



The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

Landcare NT Inc.
ABN 32 771 567 640

**Profit and Loss Statement
for the year ended 30 June 2017**

	30-Jun-17	30-Jun-16
Income		
Government Funding	\$ 95,000	\$ 100,000
Membership	\$ 0	\$ 0
Sponsorship	\$ 0	\$ 0
Interest Received	\$ 118	\$ 0
Total Income	\$ 95,118	\$ 100,000
Expenses		
Accommodation	\$ 2,870	\$ 1,348
Accounting and Auditing	\$ 7,550	\$ 3,040
Conference Registrations	\$ 1,155	\$ 0
Consultancy and Contractors	\$ 838	\$ 9,144
Events	\$ 220	\$ 0
Filing Fees	\$ 40	\$ 0
Insurance	\$ 2,161	\$ 0
IT Support	\$ 566	\$ 87
Meeting Costs	\$ 1,999	\$ 1,688
Memberships & Subscriptions	\$ 2,010	\$ 1,818
Minor Equipment Purchases	\$ 1,387	\$ 0
Office Supplies & Consumables	\$ 773	\$ 429
Postage	\$ 0	\$ 187
Printing and Advertising	\$ 4,545	\$ 4,209
Provision for Annual Leave	\$ 2,411	\$ 2,600
Sponsorship	\$ 4,458	\$ 20,500
Superannuation	\$ 4,771	\$ 2,096
Telephone	\$ 534	\$ 109
Travel	\$ 9,388	\$ 5,930
Wages & Salaries	\$ 49,731	\$ 18,710
Website	\$ 1,659	\$ 0
Workers' Compensation	\$ 500	\$ 446
Total Expenses	\$ 99,567	\$ 72,341
Operating Surplus	\$ (4,449)	\$ 27,659

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report
This report is to be in conjunction with the attached audit report

Landcare NT Inc.
ABN 32 771 567 640

Balance Sheet
as at 30 June 2017

	30-Jun-17	30-Jun-16
Current Assets		
Debit Card	\$ 1,509	\$ 0
Undeposited Funds	\$ 0	\$ 46,049
Operating Account	\$ 28,083	\$ 0
Cash Reserve	\$ 21,996	\$ 0
Total Current Assets	\$ 51,588	\$ 46,049
Fixed Assets		
Furniture & Fixtures at Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0
Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Assets	\$ 51,588	\$ 46,049
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors & Accruals	\$ 5,954	\$ 0
GST Liabilities	\$ (977)	\$ 0
PAYG Withholding Payable	\$ 3,294	\$ 0
Superannuation Liability	\$ 0	\$ 0
Provision for Annual Leave	\$ 1,716	\$ 0
Total Liabilities	\$ 9,988	\$ 0
Net Assets	\$ 41,600	\$ 34,199
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	\$ 46,049	\$ 18,390
Current Operating Surplus	\$ (4,449)	\$ 27,659
Total Equity	\$ 41,600	\$ 46,049

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements
This report is to be in conjunction with the attached audit report

Landcare NT Inc.

ABN 32 771 567 640

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2017

1. Summary of Accounting Policies

The accounting policies adopted by the Association are stated in order to assist in a general understanding of the financial statements. These policies have been consistently applied except as otherwise indicated.

Reporting entity

The association is not a reporting entity because in the committee's opinion there are unlikely to exist users who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy all of their information needs, and these accounts are therefore "special purpose accounts" that have been prepared solely to meet the requirements of the Constitution and the *Associations Act*.

Accounting policies

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost conventions and does not take into account changing money values except to the extent that they are reflected in the revaluation of certain assets.

In order for the financial report to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association and the results of the Association for the year, Australian Accounting Standards have been adopted to the extent disclosed in this note.

Income tax

The Association is of the opinion that it is not subject to income tax.

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report.

This report is to be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.