

Overview of Maffra and Districts Landcare Network Inc. & the Board 2024



Introduction

The Maffra and Districts Landcare Network was established in 1988 soon after the commencement of Landcare Victoria an initiative by the Victorian Farmers Federation (Heather Mitchell) and the Victorian government (Premier Joan Kirner).

Since it was first established, MDLN has become an incorporated body with its own constitution and is a member of Landcare Victoria Incorporated (LVI) who provides Board, staff and volunteer insurance.

Purpose

Landcare originated when farmers, landholders and conservationists came together to respond to the impacts of soil erosion and salinity.

Since then Landcare has grown with a broader remit to rejuvenate and restore habitat and improve agricultural outcomes. That is still the aim and why people stand for the MDLN Board.

Strategic Plan

MDLN's Strategic Plan Mission is for 'Healthy Landscapes, Thriving Communities'

with three main priorities

1. Healthy land, biodiversity and water quality
2. Thriving Communities
2. Good Governance

The full Strategic Plan can be found at: [MDLN Strategic Plan](#)

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Funding and Staffing

MDLN has funding from a variety of sources including DEECA for an agricultural and a community facilitator totalling 33 hours per week and which was extended to 2025. It is not guaranteed funding. Historically MDLN has had two people in those positions but for various reasons, they were combined into one position in 2022. An important part of the Facilitator's role is support of groups – geographic or interest.

In 2022 MDLN employed from its own funds, an Executive Support Officer for 7.5 hours per week to strengthen the network's governance and office arrangements.

MDLN applies for grants to achieve particular aims and these funds supplant the Facilitator Funding and open opportunities to employ other staff. Occasionally MDLN will be the recipient of a donation.

Location and Co-location

Over the years, MDLN's management and office arrangements have varied from being managed by the West Gippsland. Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and being located at 2 Malmo St, moving to a standalone building in Maffra, then to the front room of an accountancy business and since late 2023 being in a sublease arrangement with the WGCMA again at 2 Malmo St, Maffra.

There are many benefits to being co-located with WGMCA, first is that staff have professional colleagues and a safe working environment. Secondly all MDLN assets are located at the one venue, both inside and out.

The Board

Board members are elected at the Annual General Meeting each October for two year terms and the Executive is elected for one year terms.

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There is a maximum of ten people on the board with four executive, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

There are four subcommittees who meet mostly online:

- Employment – meets bi-monthly or as required
- Policy – meets bi-monthly (22 policies have been written and/or reviewed, so are up to date)
- Communications – as required
- Grants – as required
- Finance – to be implemented but maximum twice per year

Monthly Commitment

Board meetings are held monthly except January and the Annual General Meeting in October.

Meetings are held at Malmo St, Maffra are two hours and can be held on-line and in-person.

Reading board papers and being on a subcommittee would require a further 2-3 hours per week. So a total of five hours per month.

If you are interested, please contact save pdf

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Secretary Sandra Jefford secretary@mdl.com.au or 0419 200 512

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