

**President's Report (Lee Mead)**

Our community group has achieved very much again this year; we should all be very proud of everything we achieve, taking positive action to help restore our local native environment.

Many thanks to our committee members and volunteers for so much hard work during 2019. We are a great team of dedicated, resilient, tenacious, enthusiastic and reliable community members with many diverse & very useful skills.

Our Strategic Plan has five main objectives -

**1. Community Awareness and Support:** (to increase awareness & assist to local community)

Community Field Days - organising locations, catering, publicity, purchasing and maintaining equipment and herbicide. Seven field days with attendance ranging 23 – 40 with average 33.

Loans of Injecting / Digging equipment – to land managers as well, including Tarrangower Prison.

Community Events – stalls at Maldon-Baringhup Show, Maldon Market for Landcare Week, Castlemaine for Volunteer Week, Main St. for Car-Free-Day. Maldon Easter Parade.

Volunteer Safety – new goggles & gloves, maintaining current information of glyphosate status.

Community Engagement: assisted several new landowners and properties.

Free Disposal Tip – re-instated free disposal of Wheel Cactus plants at Maldon Transfer Station.

**2. Education and Information:** (to increasing community capacity, skills & knowledge)

Website – Regular posts and email enquiries, new case study on website.

Media Releases - local newsletters and newspapers, local FM & ABC radio interviews.

Information Brochures – were distributed to Real Estate Agent Offices in Maldon and Castlemaine.

Farm Fence Signs – several more distributed locally.

**3. Group Promotion and Sustainability:** (to maintain a viable, legal and productive group)

Grants - successful for funding from Mt. Alex. Shire Council and North Central CMA.

Volunteer Wellbeing – new BBQ and hot water stove, End-of-Year celebration.

Trailer - equipment trailer was refurbished & repainted.

Promotional materials - more pens & mugs purchased.

Awards – Andrew Cox presented National Froggatt Award 2018, good print & radio media coverage.

Presentations – Lee presented our project work at Victorian Weed Society Conference in May.

**4. Research and Development:** (to improve knowledge & methods)

Integrated Management Project – introduced the use of biocontrol Cochineal into management plans for 6 local properties and established insect populations.

Cochineal Nursery – propagated Cochineal insects for distribution to properties.

Conference - Lee & Ian attended Victorian Weed Society Conference in Echuca.

**5. Partnerships:** (to share & network with other environment groups and organisations)

MASC – new 4-year partnership and negotiated changes to Local By-Laws for Noxious Weeds.

Networking - Landcare Linkup meetings with Connecting Country.

Students - Monash University student field trip for several days in July (special thanks Ian Grenda).

Intrepid Landcare – participated in weekend events to encourage youth to join Landcare.

**Many thanks:** All our valued partners and supporters

- **Parks Victoria** – help with community field days and volunteer safety.
- **Mt. Alexander Shire** - funding for community field days and equipment.
- **Connecting Country** - networking opportunities such as workshops & Landcare Link-ups
- **North Central CMA** – providing funding for research project and ongoing maintenance.
- **Tarrangower Times** – for so willingly publishing our media releases.