

22 Jan 2018

Yarra Ranges Landcare Network –supporting environmental volunteers through informing, sharing and connecting.

Yarra Ranges Landcare Network is a volunteer run group consisting of currently 11 landcare and ‘friends of’ groups in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. It was set up in 2007 with the aim of providing support to the existing landcare groups and one large ‘friends of’ group. The Network aims to represent and advocate on behalf of its’ members and environmental volunteers generally, linking volunteers together to share ideas and work together where opportunities arise.

The Network is overseen currently by a small voluntary committee and in 2012, successfully applied for a 0.6 EFT Landcare Facilitator through the State Government’s – Victorian Landcare Facilitator Initiative. The Committee administers this paid position whose purpose is to fulfil the Network aims and those of the State Government Landcare Support Program.

Over the last 10 years, the Landcare Network has regularly liaised with its member groups to determine training needs, held quarterly network meetings with a variety of interesting and engaging guest speakers on a range of relevant topics, participated in Yarra 4 Life – a landscape scale project with other NRM agencies and volunteers, and contributed to strategic planning with local government and other authorities such as Melbourne Water and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority. The Network seeks grants to support its’ activities and partners with other agencies to collaborate on joint activities. Within its capacity, the Network aims to provide a voice for the environmental volunteer community.

Landcare and ‘Friends of’ groups depend on volunteers. Government supports landcare and ‘Friends of’ groups through providing information and resources to enable groups to function appropriately. The partnership works well when the passion of volunteers is married with good governance practice, there is clarity around the group aims and goals, and technical guidance is available.

Landcare for Singles – something different!

The YRLN conceived the idea for an event combining the opportunity for singles to meet whilst doing something worthwhile for the environment. Since its inaugural event in 2011, the Network, collaborating with land managers and volunteers, has rolled out another 9 “like” events including “Landcare for Single Parents” and “Landcare for Cyclists”. Yarra Ranges Council has supported 6 of these events and the remainder have been hosted and supported by individual landcare and friend’s groups.

The L4S events have attracted great interest and attendance, achieved good onground environmental outcomes and are something the Yarra Ranges Landcare Network feel very proud of! The event has been supported nationally by Landcare Australia, with events being rolled out across Australia.



Landcare for Singles Planting 2013
Wesburn – Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail