

Dear Members of Ashbourne Landcare Group,

Update from your Committee March 10th 2020

Since the last AGM there have been some changes to the committee. Robin Allen and Ian Temby, both holding positions of ordinary committee members, resigned from the committee. We thank them both for their efforts over many years furthering the work of our Landcare group. The committee now stands as follows:

President: Alan Denehey

Vice President: Michael Peck

Secretary: Elaine Saunders

Treasurer: Peter Blamey

Ordinary Committee Members: Brendan Martin, Lisa Fowler

The **next AGM** has been scheduled for **31/5/2020** so please save this date. Formal notice will be provided in due course. We have moved the date of the AGM to earlier in the year to bring it more into line with the group's financial year end date (31 March) and to be within the current subscription year (July to June).

Work Group and Subcommittee Organisation

As an initiative to stimulate more involvement in the groups activity and management by a greater number of members, your committee has formalised a number of subcommittees and Work Groups dealing with particular interests within our field of operation. The Work Groups are as follows:

Ashbourne Road Reserve	Convenor: Jane Holth
Marsh Court Reserve	Convenor: Alan Denehey
Biolinks Planning	Convenor: Libby Peck
Weed Action Group (WAG)	Convenor: Brendan Martin

The above groups are at various stages of development but all are active and all would welcome involvement of additional ALG members with a particular interest in their areas. Other groups covering special interests (eg. Flora, fauna, pest animal control) can be formed at any time if interested members step forward.

The committee has created two subcommittees to better share the workload of its management of the affairs of the group. These are a finance subcommittee convened by the Treasurer and a Secretariat, convened by the Secretary.

Code of Conduct

In keeping up with our legal requirements and community expectations, we have recently adopted the Landcare Victoria (LVI) Code of Conduct as a basis for behaviour of our officers in the conduct of their roles on ALG business and for that of all of our members at ALG meetings and events. The code of Conduct covers areas of bullying, harassment, discrimination and child safety. A copy of the document is attached for your information.

Social Event 15 March

You will have received notice of this event aimed at getting members together socially for enjoyment without the need to plant, guard or spray anything. I urge you to attend and to catch up with your fellow ALG members.

2017 Biolink Project

The time for completion of this important project has again been extended; this time to **30/6/2020**. At the time we submitted our application in 2017, we had expressions of interest to participate from 11 members. During the course of the project, four have withdrawn for a variety of reasons and fortunately, three additional members have agreed to participate and several original participants have increased their biolink areas. We are however going to fall well short of the area of biolink we originally committed to. We are about to seek expressions of interest for additional plants from the current participants. If any other member has an already fenced area that could benefit from additional plantings which would support biodiversity and they are willing to complete planting by the above date, please contact me as including any additional areas will help get us closer to the original commitment we made to DELWP. We are currently planning for a presentation of several case studies from this project to be part of the forthcoming AGM.

Marsh Court Reserve Working-bee 29 March 10am

Our next working-bee at Marsh Court Reserve is set down for Sunday 29 March at 10 am. We will be doing some high volume gorse and blackberry spraying in one area which will only involve one or two people. Other work will involve cutting and painting of gorse, blackberry and hawthorn seedlings throughout the entry-end of the reserve (all tools and PPE will be provided) for which a team of around 10 volunteers will be needed. We also intend clearing access past the rockpool and further downstream which will involve some brushcutter work. If you can participate in this and bring your brushcutter, PPE, etc. we would be pleased to have your help. As usual, we will finish with a sausage sizzle (ALG provided) and would appreciate contributions of salad and cake.

Kind regards,

Alan Denehey – President