



The LANDCARE NSW

Advocate

February 2008



The state's new Landcare advisory and advocacy group, Landcare NSW Inc, has taken steps to ensure it is truly representative of the 48,000 landcarers in NSW.

Still in its infancy, Landcare NSW Inc, held its second meeting in Sydney early this month, attended by 13 representatives from 10 different regional Landcare networks.

It was agreed at the meeting that membership of Landcare NSW needed to be "inclusive and flexible". A pre-requisite would be that groups seeking representation must be registered on the National Landcare Register and apply to the Membership Sub-Committee.

Much of the discussion at the recent meeting centred on membership, terms of reference and objectives, ongoing funding, and other logistical issues as identified at the Tamworth and Myuna Bay gatherings.

Incorporation:

Interim co-convenor David Walker, Executive Officer of Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee in Gunnedah, reported to the meeting that Landcare NSW had been registered as an incorporated body November 28 last year, immediately following the group's first meeting.

Funding and Sponsorship:

A bank account has been opened and initial funding of \$20,000 per year comes from Landcare Australia Ltd.

Landcare NSW Inc agreed to continue discussions with CMA Chairs Council, Natural Resources Commission, Natural Resources Advisory Council and other State and National Landcare Supporters, regarding collaboration, support and the resourcing needs of the group.

Website and Communications:

Discussion at the meeting also focussed on the management of the landcarenewsw.org.au website. This is currently under the control of the CMAs and Landscapes section of the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The Department is currently considering if and how control of the domain can be passed on to Landcare NSW Inc, so that content could be updated as needed. This would allow individual regional landcare networks and groups to have control of their relevant pages.

As part of its communications strategy, Landcare NSW Inc will maintain a database of Landcare organisations and will distribute a survey to all Landcare groups.

Meetings and Muster:

It was agreed that Landcare NSW Inc would meet four times a year, with one of those meetings taking place at the annual Landcare Muster. The Muster is seen as providing an opportunity for the State's landcarers and networks to celebrate Landcare, sharing our successes and challenges, and for Landcare Support Staff to meet, share and learn. The venue for the 2008 Muster will be Queanbeyan in October.

Next Meeting and Election of Office Bearers:

The next meeting of Landcare NSW Inc will be held in Sydney, Monday, May 5. First item on the agenda will be the election of a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

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