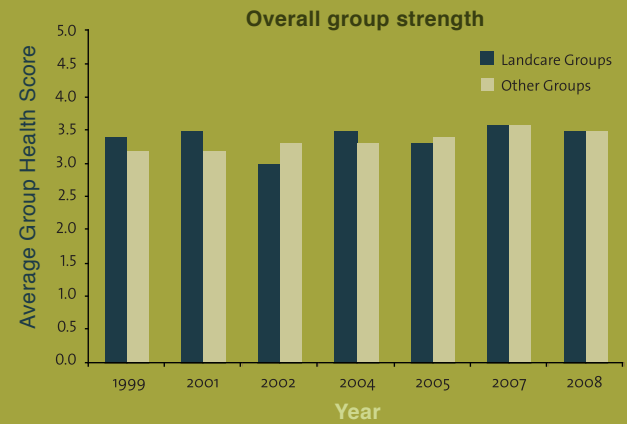


Group Strength

Groups were invited to self-assess their strength (or health) using a five-point scale. In 2007/08, 34 Landcare groups and 100 other groups responded.



Groups were also asked to self-assess their strength in relation to 14 specific elements of group strength.

Element	Average Score
Vision and direction	3.6
Purpose and role	3.8
Planning	3.6
Leadership	2.3
Internal systems	3.5
External profile	2.9
Financial resources	3.0
People resources	2.7
Information resources	3.7
Networks	3.2
Confidence	3.4
Human capital	3.4
Social capital	3.8
External support	3.6

Planning

Good planning enables a group to be strategic and more effective, by establishing a unified vision for the future and providing a 'road map' to guide it there. Advantages of good planning include clearer decision-making, greater success in recruiting and retaining volunteers, and a stronger case for securing funds and gaining sponsorship.

Plans that are informed by larger scale plans (region-network-group-property) mean that action at the smaller scale will more effectively contribute to larger scale goals.

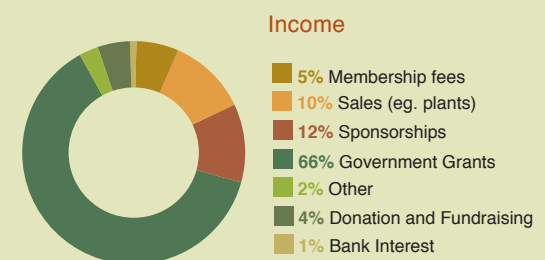


Olinda Landcare Group

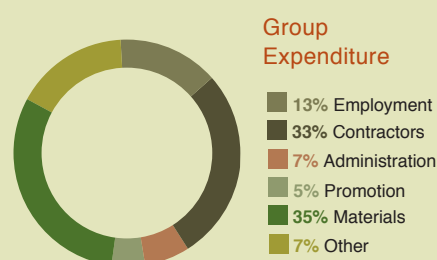


Financials

Income
\$665,606 – total secured by community landcare groups in 2007/08.



Expenditure
\$556,770 – total spent by community landcare groups in 2007/08.



In 2007/08 Landcare networks secured a further 37 grants and sponsorships on behalf of their groups totalling \$1,616,060, and spent \$610,636 of this on employing 7.7 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Landcare support and project management staff. \$220,000 of this came via the PPWCMA. The PPWCMA secured a further \$496,000 to employ 4 FTE Landcare support staff, totalling regional support investment of \$719,000.

Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority

The Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) is one of ten Victorian CMAs established to ensure the protection and sustainable development of land, vegetation and water resources.

The PPWCMA is a Victorian Government statutory authority. It is responsible for:

- Preparing a Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and coordinating and monitoring its implementation;
- Promoting cooperation in the management of land and water resources;
- Advising on regional priorities and resource allocation;
- Advising on matters relating to catchment and land protection;
- Advising on the condition of land and water resources; and
- Promoting community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

For more information, visit www.ppwma.vic.gov.au or call 03 8781 7900

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Further Information

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority

Website: www.ppwma.vic.gov.au
Telephone: (03) 8781 7900

Victorian Landcare Gateway
www.landcarevic.net.au

ISBN: 978-0-9804232-5-9

Port Phillip and Westernport



Front Cover: Peter Ronalds, Cardinia Environment Coalition (Thanks Peter)
Photo Left: Grow West planting day

www.ppwma.vic.gov.au

Snapshot of community landcare

PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERN PORT REGION 2007-2008



Within this document community landcare refers to volunteer-based groups with a focus on land and water management such as Landcare groups, Friends groups, volunteer Committees of Management and the networks they form.

Landcare groups typically have a focus on large areas of private land in non-urban areas, and play a key role in influencing the way landholders use and manage their land.

Friends groups and Committees of Management typically have a focus on smaller areas of public land, usually in urban areas. They support the public land owners in management of their

land and they have a role in educating the community about land and water management.

The value of these groups is recognised by all levels of government, primarily through investment in grant programs and support staff.

In essence, support is aimed at building the capacity of these groups to influence the adoption of sustainable land and water

use and management practises by land owners and managers.

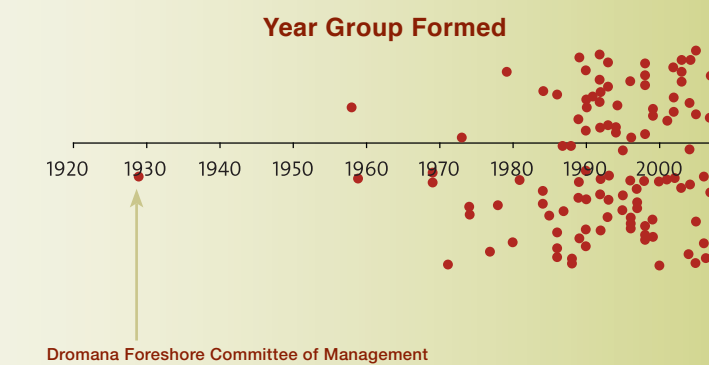
This influence is optimised when groups are strong, healthy organisations with clear direction, well-engaged with their local communities, well-informed, collaborating with each other, and well-connected to government agencies and their respective priorities.

Community landcare is dynamic. Groups form, they recruit members, they plan, they secure and spend funds, they do activities, they deliver on-ground outputs, they get stronger, they form networks, and they influence and observe change. Networks, along with the Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) also undertake activities to develop the capacity of groups. This snapshot has been compiled to illustrate some of these aspects of community landcare for 2007/08.

Groups



Many other community organisations with an environmental focus also exist in the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

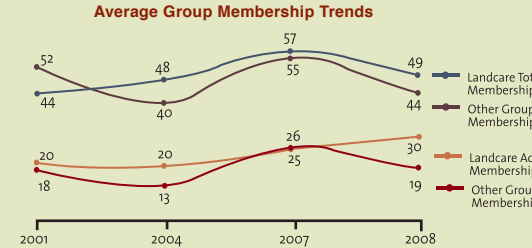


Data Limitations

This snapshot has relied upon the willingness and goodwill of volunteers involved in groups to provide the data used to create the report. We sincerely thank the 136 groups (including 35 Landcare groups) that completed the survey in 2007/08. This represents 23% of the 603 community organisations that the survey was sent to. Six of the 10 Landcare networks also provided information for this document. As such this snapshot is simply an indication of the huge voluntary contribution all groups and networks make towards caring for our land and water in this region.

Membership

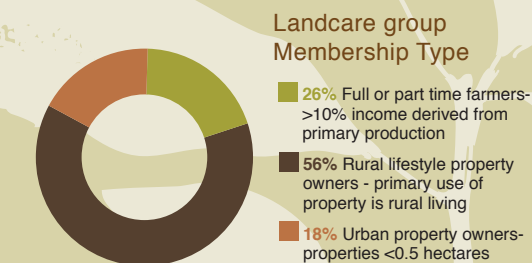
Active membership is the number of people that participated in at least one group activity during the year, whereas **Total membership** is the total number of members irrespective of active participation. For Landcare groups, membership numbers are based on properties, whereas for other groups it is based on individuals.



Landcare Groups

Collectively, the 86 Landcare groups covered over 56% (721,000 hectares) of the region, including 530,000 hectares or 71% of all privately-owned rural land.

The members of 19 Landcare groups in 2007/08 owned or managed land totalling 26,973 hectares. This alone represents 3.6% of the region's privately-owned land.



During 2007/08, 47 of these groups were members of nine networks (1 network was inactive).

Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

Group Activities

Community landcare groups contribute a substantial amount of their time voluntarily through a diverse range of activities. Over 184,000 hours were contributed in 2007/08.

On-ground works - 87,045 hours (47%);
weeding; planting; waterwatch; walking track maintenance; seed collection; rabbit control; plant propagation; direct seeding; controlled ecological burn; bird surveys; fencing; nestbox monitoring; frogwatch.

Planning and coordination - 49,005 hours (27%);
committee meetings; project planning; funding applications; annual general meetings; stakeholder meetings; organising working bees; event planning; landcare forums; social events; onsite meetings; contractor meetings.

Promotion and engagement - 33,068 hours (18%);
leaflets; websites; public speaking; bus tours; information stands; newsletters; letterboxing; door knocking; newspaper articles; radio interviews; open days; field days; signage; posters; school tours.

Learning and training - 15,157 hours (8%);
grant application training; waterwatch training; plant propagation course; first aid training; equipment training; plant identification; weed identification; restoration planning; rabbit warren destruction; chemical handling course; climate change; frogwatch; salinity field trips; property planning.



Power in Numbers Forum, 2008



Upper Merribyong Landcare Group

Support Activities

In 2007/08 Landcare networks and the PPWCMA collectively delivered 86 capacity building activities with 2399 participants.

Courses and training

- Property planning for lifestyle landholders
- Whole farm planning
- Horse property management
- Leadership
- Land stewardship
- Financial management

Field days and information sessions

- Managing revegetation and remnant vegetation
- Nutrient management
- Effluent management
- Pest plant and animal control
- Ecosystem services
- Soil and pasture management
- Reducing agricultural greenhouse emissions
- Water use efficiency
- Wetland and frog habitat management
- Indigenous gardens
- Erosion
- Landcare CarbonSMART
- "How to write grants" workshop

Tours

- East Gippsland landcare tour
- Community nursery tour

Facilitation

- Strategic and action planning
- Project planning
- Formation of 5 new Landcare groups and 2 Landcare networks

Products

- PPWCMA Calendar of Grants and Incentives
- Group development information notes (draft)

The Port Phillip and Western Port region

The region comprises the catchments of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port. Covering 1.28 million hectares, this represents about 5.5% of Victoria, includes 38 council areas, and is home to 3.5 million people.

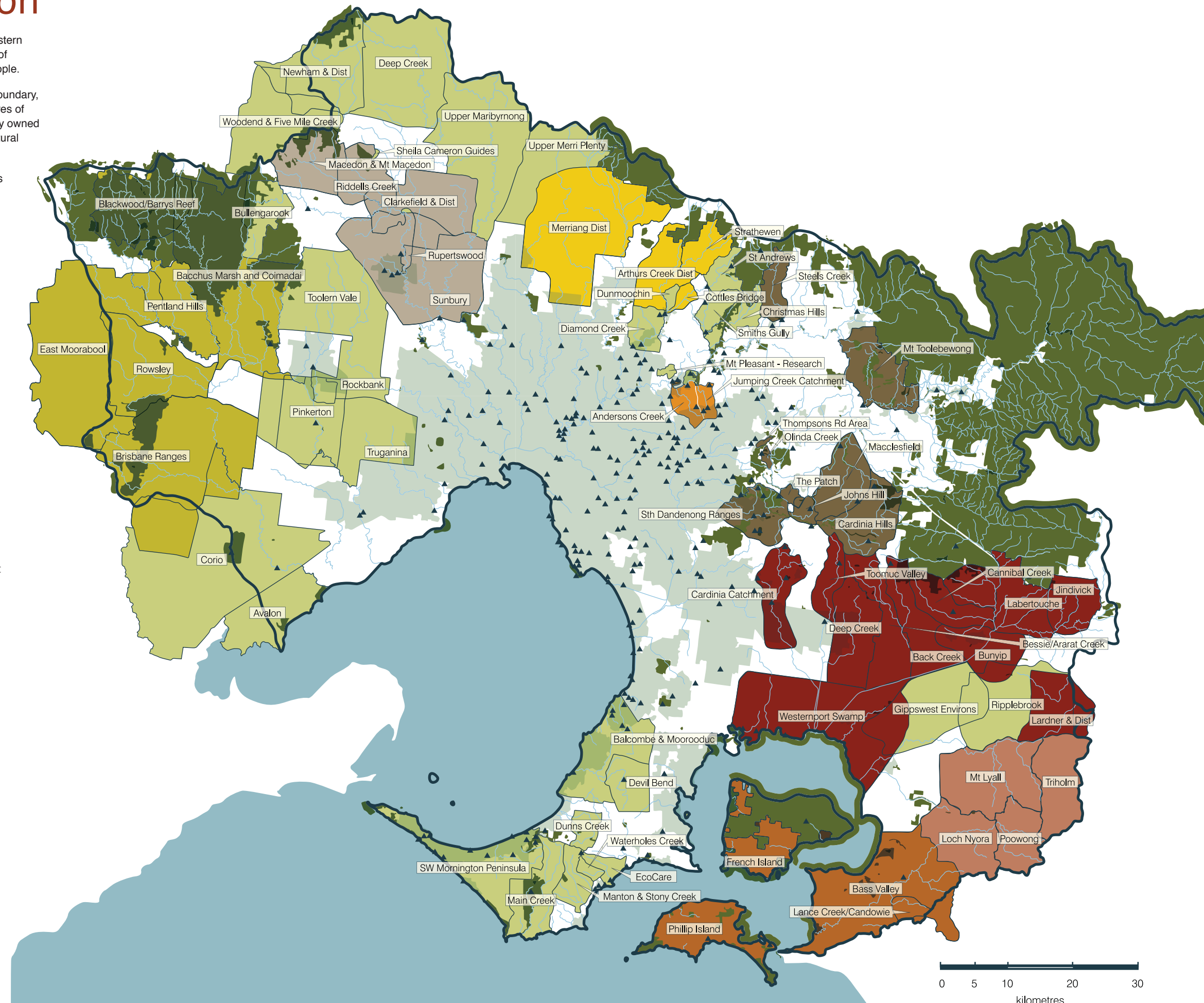
Approximately 18% of the region falls within the Urban Growth Boundary, including all of metropolitan Melbourne. Of the 1.05 million hectares of land considered rural, approximately 750,000 hectares is privately owned and includes rural farmland with an annual gross value of agricultural production in excess of \$1 billion.

The remaining public land includes 8 national parks, 6 state parks and numerous regional and local conservation, coastal and waterway reserves.

LEGEND

- PPWCMA Region Boundary
- Urban Area
- PUBLIC LAND**
 - National Parks, Conservation Reserves and State Forest
 - Waterways
- GROUPS AND NETWORKS**
 - Landcare Groups not within Networks
 - Other groups (eg. 'Friends of')
- LANDCARE GROUPS WITHIN NETWORKS**
 - Western Port Catchment Landcare Network
 - South Gippsland Landcare Network
 - Bass Coast Landcare Network
 - Middle Yarra Landcare Network
 - WACMAC
 - Moorabool Landcare Advisory Committee Network
 - Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork
 - Yarra and Ranges Landcare Network (Also includes Southern Ranges Environment Alliance)

Other community landcare groups exist within the Port Phillip and Western Port region however we do not yet have a mapped boundary or location for these groups.



On-ground Outputs

Group funds and activities are often aimed at producing an on-ground output. Networks also deliver on-ground outputs on behalf of their groups.

Group	Network
228,431 stems planted 222 ha revegetated 21.1 km streamside revegetated	48,450 stems planted 121 ha revegetated
105.5 km direct seeding 6.70 ha revegetated	13.9 ha revegetated
267 km protective fencing erected 37 ha vegetation protected 2.8 km streamside protected	175 km protective fencing erected 121.7 ha vegetation protected
40,702.4 ha native vegetation treated for weeds 632.2 ha pasture treated for weeds 2.8km streamside treated for weeds	20 ha native vegetation treated for weeds
1453.7 ha treated for pest animals 14.2km streamside treated for pest animals	9 sites rehabilitated 14ha land rehabilitated 2km streamside rehabilitated
133,201 plants propagated	5.2kg indigenous seed collected

Influence

Groups and networks seek to influence individual land managers to use and manage their land sustainably leading to positive change in their local environment and community. The extent of this influence is largely unmeasured, however anecdotal evidence suggests that change is occurring.

"Increase of native vegetation over 2km of creek with Swamp Skink population increase from 7 in 2002 to 35+ at Capel Sound and increase in number in all sites revegetated."
Friends of Chinamans Creek

"We have 90 member properties out of a possible 260 properties in our district. Through our activities of speaker nights (open to entire community), newsletters and word of mouth we believe we have developed a positive profile both with members and community."
Newham & District Landcare Group

"25% improvement in pasture in rabbit control area (11 sq kms) and some natural flora regeneration. Potential for erosion reduced. Early plantings on various sites (1990-2000) are finally attaining good size despite 12 years of rainfall deficiency. Yarra Pigmy Perch (endangered species) lives on."
Deep Creek Landcare Group (Romsey/Lancefield)



Greenlink Box Hill

Return on Investment

The regional investment (ie via the PPWCMA) in support for community landcare totaled \$716,000 for 2007/08.

This helped leverage an additional investment of \$7,589,887 (\$665,607 group income, \$1,396,060 additional network income, \$5,528,220 volunteer time @ \$30/hour) into the region.

This equates to a **cost benefit ratio of 1:10.6**