**President’s Report**

**Tamworth Regional Landcare Association (TRLA)**

***Annual General Meeting (AGM)***

**Wests League Club, Tamworth**

***Saturday 16 November 2024***

Tamworth Regional Landcare Association has experienced another dynamic year. Obtaining the promised increased funding from the new state government was challenging, both in effort and timing. This resulted in delayed advertising for staff and a series of ongoing interview panels. My sincere thanks to committee members and seconded community members for assisting in the recruitment processes. It is a time to celebrate now that we are fully staffed and can reflect of the achievements of 2024 with staff in place.

TRLA current staffing is as follows: -

* Paul Moxon continues as Nursery Manager, supported by Julie Clancy,
* Jacqui Gidley-Baird holds the reins as Executive Officer,
* Ninna Douglas continues as the Tamworth Local Landcare Coordinator supporting WiLi, Communications, Landcare Learnings and organisational support,
* Susan Wilson assumed the role of Local Landcare Coordinator for Tamworth and Surrounds,
* **Nicky Chirlian took over the role of Local Landcare Coordinator for the Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah,**
* **Kate Spry has stepped in as the new Youth and Education Coordinator, and**
* **Kat Palividis** has taken up the new role of Administration Officer for Tamworth and the North West Regional Landcarers.

This team managed to achieve many great outcomes since our last AGM, including: -

* Strong ties have continued to grow between TRLA and other organisations in the Upper Namoi Water in the Landscape Initiative (WiLI),
* Informative Landcare Learnings have continued as evening events at the UNE Centre,
* Collaboration continues with the Manilla community for the Renewable Manilla Festival,
* Support to local groups for a range of projects with the TRLA Small Grants,
* AgQuip stall at the LLS site, promoting the variety of Landcare projects and the TRLA Nursery; also promoting citizen scientist opportunities for frog and dung beetle research,
* revitalised photographic competition with images projected in Fitzroy Street …thank you to the TRC Gallery,
* Wildseek Project to monitor the distribution and abundance of koalas with a drone using thermal imaging, now headed up by James Philby
* A variety of other activities as per the TRLA website and Newsletter.

A highlight of the year was the NSW Landcare Awards in Sydney. Our region yielded the following winners:-

* Stephanie Cameron – the Gerald Carnie Memorial Award
* Nell Chaffey – Women in Landcare
* Tania Hardigan - Wallabadah Community Association

We congratulate these people/groups for their ongoing commitment and hard work to achieve the principles of Landcare.

TRLA continues to act as an umbrella for a plethora of smaller Landcare groups in our region and are part of the North West Regional Landcarers group which has direct representation to the Landcare NSW State Advisory Council (SAC). The Chair Kate Groth has represented our region at this forum, but will be standing down for next year. I was endorsed as a member of the Landcare NSW Board earlier this year representing both the North West Landcarers and the Northern Tablelands Regions.

Our Regional Teams (TRLA and NSLA) have been submitting funding applications to a range of organisations to support programs and projects across our patch of the north west of NSW. Funding is currently very tight and successful grants can be quite elusive….but the quest continues.

We continue to delve into the spheres of regenerative agriculture, carbon farming, landscape rehydration, our carbon and water footprints, citizen scientist opportunities, biodiversity, and ecological sustainability.

We will eagerly embrace future opportunities, funding and community interaction and support! Remember, we can all play a part!

For our meeting here today, I would like to thank the following people:-

* the entire TRLA Team, but in particular, Ninna Douglas for organising this evening’s event,
* our volunteers…. especially Committee members, (Lyn Allen, Heather Ranclaud, John Simpson, Fiona Kelly, Aurelie Quade and Jean Cody), our Executive (George Macdonald, Stephanie Cameron, Nell Chaffey, and of course Jacqui Gidley-Baird as our EO), all our volunteers in the many Landcare groups and the Nursery….all of whom contribute countless voluntary hours to ensure Landcare continues to achieve and promote our values to the broader community.

Finally, my best wishes to all for 2025. May it foster the change we wish to see in the world.

Thank you.

Wayne Chaffey

President

Tamworth Regional Landcare Association (TRLA)

November 15, 2024