



CLEA: Community Learning for Environmental Action

Peer-to-peer learning across community environment groups



Themes from CLEA interviews with Landcare leaders

In interviews conducted 2015 in Y1 of CLEA, leaders of Landcare Networks were asked:

What has your Network learned and improved in the way it works as a Network—the way it's organised, its partnerships, and how it influences funders and the rural community?

A summary of each interview, plus an audio excerpt of each, can be found at
<https://sites.google.com/site/landcareplanning/stories>

Organising	
Mobilise local expertise	<p>Put experts and locals together in a learning program, and they will generate a network of local expertise within which people are willing to share their knowledge. (<i>Building up local knowledge holders</i>, Southern Otways LN)</p> <p>To help people understand the landscape agenda, put problems and agency priorities on a map, where people can see what all the words are about. (<i>Connecting local groups to the bigger picture</i>, Upper Barwon LN)</p> <p>Put landscape priorities at the front of works agreements with individual landholders, so they can see the connection. (<i>Start with what each individual wants to do</i>, Connecting Country)</p> <p>Use the knowledge and skills of local people, and adjacent Landcare Networks, to do some of the work of the Network. (<i>Using local talents and other Networks to get things done</i>, Upper Barwon LN)</p>
Manage your CoM to deliver value to member groups and to CoM members	<p>Start your Network meeting with time for members to talk about what's happening in their local groups. Use special interest sub-groups to deal with issues in depth outside of Committee of Management meetings. (<i>Keeping committee members engaged</i>, Upper Barwon LN)</p> <p>Work with the members of Landcare committees most interested in improving planning, and have them take new processes into their groups. (<i>Keeping committee members engaged</i>, UBLN)</p> <p>Don't back away from Landcare's idealism - that's what will attract people to your committee. (<i>How do we get people to</i></p>

	<p><i>join our committee</i>, Upper Goulburn LN)</p> <p>Build the good feeling and mutual support between people on the committee. (<i>How do we get people to join our committee</i>, UGLN)</p> <p>Use people's talents, but respect limitations in their time (<i>How do we get people to join our committee</i>, UGLN)</p> <p>Get your governance right (<i>Starting with the individual's goals</i>, Connecting Country)</p> <p>Take on the bigger educational events that your groups don't have the expertise or resources to run (<i>Starting with the individual's goals</i>, Connecting Country)</p>
Plan for a connected landscape	<p>Start with a good understanding of landscape condition and threats, so that underpins all your activity. (<i>Starting with the individual's goals</i>, Connecting Country)</p> <p>A long-term plan for the whole Network area means you're ready when opportunities come along. (<i>Many more people</i> Loddon Plains LN)</p>
Collaborating	
Build partnerships that leverage Landcare's grassroots connections	<p>Landcare has the grassroots connections across the landscape that other organisations need. Use that to draw them into landscape scale projects (<i>Bringing multiple partners into projects</i> Heytesbury District LN)</p> <p>If you get people in the same room talking to each other, you can improve the overall effort, even if you're not getting big funding in the door. (<i>Many more people</i> Loddon Plains LN)</p>
Influencing	
Engage the lifestylers	<p>Start with what individuals want to do for native vegetation on their own properties, but give them the wider landscape agenda, and invite them into education events that give them skills and links to their neighbours and like-minded people. (<i>Starting with the individual's goals</i>, Connecting Country)</p> <p>Support lifestylers interest in stewardship with property management planning and with skills in land management (<i>Building up local knowledge holders</i>, SOLN)</p> <p>Offer lifestylers experiences that excite them, but let them learn their land management alongside established farmers. (<i>Farm Blitz brings in lifestylers</i>, South West Goulburn Landcare)</p>
Advocate directly to politicians	Take the Minister at his word and knock on doors in Spring St. (<i>Lessons</i> , Donald and District Landcare).

