

Annual Report

Mount Roland Land Care Incorporated

July 1 2024 to June 30 2025

(and to the 2025 AGM, Sept 28, 2025)

Elected at the previous AGM (Sept 15, 2024):

President: Greg Taylor

Vice President: Barbara Alsop

Treasurer: Geoff Page

Secretary: Janet Dunbabin

Committee members: Clive Bott (Honorary Committee Member), George Callister, Donna Reedy, Tracy Kelly, Barb McLennan, Councillor Don Thwaites, Rob Van der Weide and Councillor Terry Hughes (Council Representative)

Public Officer: Don Thwaites

Appointed after the AGM - Auditor: Neil Wilkinson

It's my pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2025.

Our largest project in the last year has been our 'Thousands of Trees Project' funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. Our tree planting has been a highlight. This year a further 2100 native seedlings have been planted across 10 planting days, attended by a total of 248 people. This brings the total trees planted by MRLC since 2021 to around 7,000.



The environmental outcomes here are significant, but so too are the social outcomes. The social atmosphere at our tree planting days is a real feature, and it has been well captured by our recent short film, just last week shown as part of the Landcare Australia National Short Film Awards. We'll be seeing that short film later in today's presentations. To all of our 'tree planters' in the last year, we say thank you – it has been so much fun working with you all - what a great effort. And of course we also say thank you to the landowners, who have hosted planting days – your commitment makes it all possible.



The 'Thousands of Trees' project also delivered four seed collecting workshops with the wonderful Ruth Mollison. Two of these workshops were delivered in conjunction with the Tasmania Wildlife Hospital at Forth, while the other two – including one specifically for youth, were held at Stoodley. All were well attended, and our thanks go to Josh and Joh at the Wildlife Hospital, and to the inspirational Laura Wildsmith for so very capably organizing the youth workshop, and to Ron and Art for allowing us access to their Stoodley block.



We travelled to Wynyard and Oldina on two fully booked bus trips, to visit Murnong Gardens with Rees Campbell and Col, and Oldina Nursery with Jim Mcloud. The feedback on these events was quite extraordinary and encouraged a further collaboration with Rees and Col on two days of 'Seaweed Experience' at Moorland Beach, again fully subscribed.



'Naturally Kentish at Night' held at Wilder Tasmania, Gowrie Park in April this year, featured live music and mind-expanding presentations by Dr. Lisa Cawthen and Ben Alldridge and Kristen Lang. The event

was fully booked with over 80 attendees, with Ben's presentation live streamed to an audience of thousands.



We were also able to again offer to our members the opportunity to purchase tree planting kits – making it easier to get those trees in the ground.

So much work goes on behind the scenes for these events, and to our very hard working 'Trees Subcommittee' – Geoff Page, Laura Wildsmith, Don Thwaites and Donna Reedy – we express our sincere thanks - an amazing effort by these people. And many thanks also to Alison Wildsmith and to Elizabeth Dale for their wonderful support with 'Naturally Kentish' and through the year.

Another major project of this last year has been our 'Culverts for Wildlife', supported by grant funding received from Landcare Australia. This project extended us in many ways, as we sought to understand 'Why the crayfish was crossing the road'. We delved into the tech world of scientific monitoring using remote Time lapse cameras and Microchip Scanners, engaged Traffic Management contractors, and worked cooperatively with Kentish Councils as we tried to unravel subtleties of this GFC behaviour. We also ventured even further afield, this time to Circular Head, and there had the privilege of experiencing these amazing creatures in larger numbers. Our special thanks go to the Culverts subcommittee - Janet, Anne, Elizabeth, Donna, Geoff and Don, to Todd Walsh for his expert guidance, to Michael Mouat and Sam Blackwood Beattie at Kentish Council, and to the private landowners who gave us access to their very special properties. We'll hear more of this project in a presentation later today from the Culverts Subcommittee.

Weeds, yes there's always weeds to think about. The State Government's Declaration of Foxgloves was a milestone in the last year, and our Group is proud to have been a leading voice encouraging that. We've worked with numerous land managers, big and small. Our own weeding bees have tackled the weeds that most threaten our Mount Roland Regional Reserve, with 7 weeding bees attended by a total of 114 people over the last twelve months. Not everyone is physically able to participate in this sometimes strenuous work – to those who have clambered up the Mountain and through dense native bush, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation, as we do to the Weeds Subcommittee working behind the scenes to pull these events together.



Youth engagement is a continuing focus for MRLC, and in the last year we've enjoyed the participation of young people from Sheffield School (thanks to a generous donation from Staunton Farm Organics), Wilmot School, Home Schooling groups, Inaburra School (from NSW), and the Kentish Scouts. Many young people have also participated in our tree planting days, and their enthusiasm has been a real inspiration.



We also established a creative award for youth. 'Naturally Kentish' invited those under the age of 20 who live in the Kentish Municipality to submit an artistic creation of whatever form on the theme of 'What I love about the natural environment in Kentish'. The poems, sculptures, collages, drawings and even a song were featured in our event at Gowrie Park in April to much acclaim.



It has also been a privilege for us to collaborate with Laura Wild Smith as her 'Where the Wild Things Grow' native plant nursery continues to flourish. 100 of Laura's blackwood seedlings were planted by the Sheffield School students – this was a real highlight!



Kristen's 'Life on the Mountain' project continue to inspire us all. How blessed are we to have work of this stature happening right here, right now, as part of our Group. Thank you, Kristen – everything about your project is so amazing, and we look forward to your presentation later this afternoon.

To do all these projects, we need equipment, tools, safety gear and training. This year we have been blessed with funding from FRRR, that has supported purchase of a range of excellent hand tools and ppe, a new first aid kit, and some specialized monitoring equipment, together with training in First Aid and Accidental Counselling. We were also successful in obtaining funds to purchase a Defibrillator – it's here today! Hopefully we will never need to use it, but it's great to have at all our events. A special thanks to Janet who led these processes.

All our projects rely on sound administration, and good financial structures. In the last twelve months we have graduated to bookkeeping using MYOB. While we are forever indebted to the efforts of previous Treasurers, and the systems they developed and used for many years, the transition to an off-the-shelf bookkeeping package has brought many advantages, especially in a busy financial year with many transactions. Thanks go to Rachel Joyce of Summit Advisors who has guided us through

this change, and to our Treasurer Geoff Page who has maintained and refined the systems throughout the year and to our new auditor, Neil Wilkinson.

We have now also become a registered Charity with Deductible Gift Registration. This lays the platform for a different sort of future for our Group. While we will continue to seek grant funding where possible, we will now also be better able to directly pursue funding for specific projects we have in mind. Here we owe thanks to our Fundraising Subcommittee, and especially Fiona Solomon who expertly guided us through the registration process, and Ruth Rutherford who is now leading the pursuit of funding.

This year for the first time, we were able to use funds from the Kentish Council's Special Discretionary Fund, to enable removal of a threatening log jam on the Dasher River. Access to this fund is part of our Partnership Agreement with Kentish Council, along with an annual grant of \$7k. Thank you to Mayor Kate, and all the Kentish Councillors – and especially Cr. Don Thwaites and Cr. Terry Hughes for your strong and ongoing support.

This year we have established a more formalized structure to guide our partnership with our two key partners. With Kentish Council, we now have scheduled six monthly meetings, and we thank Mayor Kate Haberle and Sam Blackwood Beattie for their support and encouragement. Also, as land managers of Mount Roland Regional Reserve, the Parks and Wildlife Service are a key contact, and our six-monthly meetings with Ben Hill and his staff are enjoyable and very valuable.

To our Governing Committee members, who guide our Group and perform the crucial governance role to oversee all that we do, thank you. To our subcommittee members – increasingly these are the 'doers'. Let's take a moment to celebrate these people – here are their names:

Our Governing Committee members

Clive Bott (Honorary Committee Member), George Callister, Donna Reedy, Tracy Kelly, Barb McLennan, Councillor Don Thwaites, Rob Van der Weide and Councillor Terry Hughes (Council Representative)

Our subcommittees

Trees: Laura Wild Smith, Donna Reedy, Don Thwaites, Geoff Page, Greg Taylor

Culverts for Wildlife: Anne Gilles, Janet Dunbabin, Elizabeth Dale, Donna Reedy, Don Thwaites, Geoff Page, Greg Taylor

Fundraising: Fiona Solomon, Ruth Rutherford, Janet Dunbabin, Geoff Page, Greg Taylor

Weeds: Tracy Kelly, Barbara Alsop, Janet Dunbabin, George Alsop, Greg Taylor

Facebook: Jodie McQueen, Tracy Kelly, Barbara Alsop, Elizabeth Dale.

And we must also remember our Property Coordinator Rob, for maintaining and securing our gear, and our Public Officer Don for keeping us on track as we meet the requirements of our Constitution.

This year our membership reached an all-time high – 161 at the end of the last financial year. We are so grateful to each of our members, your support inspires us all, and the growth is a heartening endorsement of the group and its directions.

And to our amazingly efficient and capable Membership Coordinator Elizabeth Dale. While the rest of us celebrate the growth in membership, Elizabeth just has more work to do! Thank you Elizabeth for making that large job look effortless.

And also of course, there's our Web Site. Have you visited it lately? Such a powerful tool for our Group, it's really our face to the world. We're very fortunate to have Elizabeth (again) and Geoff building and maintaining this website on behalf of us all. The website works in conjunction with our Facebook page, and the synergy between the two is so important to our Group. Thank you too to the Facebook subcommittee.

We have many partner groups and key work colleagues. Claire, and Joseph at CCNRM, Mark Woods at Department of State Growth, Timberlands Pacific, Forico, Sustainable Timbers, Reliance, Thomas at Tas Networks, Glen and Cathy at Bakes Sawmill, Matt at Wilder Tasmania, The Sheffield Shed, Landcare Tasmania and many private landowners. Heather and Leslie at The Kentish Voice, and let's not forget the Claude Road Hall committee who maintain this Hall with such care, and allow us to base our operations here.

Our neighbouring groups are very important to us. We're privileged to have very positive relationships with Devonport Community Landcare, Friends of the Great Western Tiers, the Kentish Garden Club, the Australian Plant Society, and the Central North Field Naturalists. Our specific interests vary, but we have much in common, and we very much look forward to continuing our friendships into the future.

Our final thanks today go to our very hard working and diligent Executive Committee. These guys meet every week, and keep the ship afloat. Our Group is entirely run by volunteers – over 5000 hours of volunteer time have been contributed in the last twelve months. Our Secretary Janet is the hub in all the wheels – thank you Janet, your contributions in the last year have been huge and we're so grateful to you both for your Executive role, and also your wide participation in the whole range of MRLC activities. You are an inspiration. Geoff our Treasurer manages the dollars, we all know how vital that role is. And some of us appreciate the complexities of gst, invoicing, reporting and budgets, liaising with auditors and driving MYOB. Thank you Geoff for all that you contribute and the expertise you bring to that job. And thanks too for all your contributions through other subcommittees – you have been central to the success of MRLC in the past year. To Barbara our vice president – thank you Barbara. The vice president role is multi-faceted – it offers support to other Exec so that the sometimes-heavy loads are shared, making it easier for all. Thank you Barbara for all the support you've provided, the guidance with river works, and especially for catering for our weeding bees and other events throughout the year.

As we now prepare to embark on the next year of Mount Roland Land Care, can we just pause and reflect on the many who have come before us. The Group was formed in 1999 as Mount Roland Rivercare. Its achievements today are built on the foundations of those early years, and we pay our

respects to all who have contributed over that period. But we also look forward to the future. In a time when our natural world is under great pressure, and the need for community connection and resilience is felt all the more strongly, we encourage your ongoing support of this Group, comprised entirely of people who voluntarily give their time, energy and expertise for the betterment of our environment and our community. Long may Mount Roland Land Care prosper!

I move that this Annual Report be accepted.