**Loch Nyora Landcare Group by President Rosemary Knox August 25th 2019 Nyora Hall**

Welcome everyone to the Loch Nyora Landcare AGM.

Beginning in May 1996.... we have a wonderful long history of caring for the land in the Loch Nyora area. Entering into our 24th year of existence the visual impact is evident.......lots of trees on farms, the schools, the Reserve, the roadsides and in the community.

2018-2019 It's been a slow but steady year of tying up loose ends projects. The Hilda Falls project had it's final weed spray from the grant and an inspection of the works showed a great result. Ideally we should apply for another Melbourne Water grant to maintain the good works that have been started. On social media it seems more people are finding out about Hilda Falls and are walking the 2.2km from Loch to see what it's all about. We put a sign up at the Falls (to replace the stolen ones) and this ensures people don't walk past,

We have planted trees at the South Road truck stop.

The Graham Wark memorial seat looks fantastic and is ready to be placed with a concrete slab at Cape Horn and landscaped.

At the entrance to Loch from Poowong opposite Ferriers Road the ugly bank has been planted out by adjoining landowner Rod Abbott. We provided the trees.

We helped Loch Kinder out (and also the Loch Reserve) by spraying under the swing bridge for the regular Kinder's Thursday venture down to the creek. Tube stock were planted by the kids recently and the area has been removed of blackberry cane, and deadly nightshade.

We provided and assisted Nyora PS with some tree planting on National Schools Tree day and donated trees to Loch PS.

We donated trees to the LCDA for their Makers Market hamper.

The Dung Beetle project presentation held at Kernot and then a farm walk and Dung Beetle release to Adam Tran's farm at Loch was a huge success. This was a SGLN project in our area.

The Network are now actively seeking participants in the Soil Biology project to start soon. To be part of the trial and to become a SOIL CHAMPION will be beneficial to yourselves, our group and others.

With **communications** in mind we distribute a seasonal newsletter to our members and Melbourne Water supports our group for this purpose.

We contribute regularly to the Loch Express with updates of our meetings and activities and our contact list. It has a long standing information ad for our support of the Kernot Uniting Church and their newspaper recycling collection.

Regular emails keep everyone in touch with local grant opportunities, Network happenings and projects.

Our membership drive from last year was successful with 32 financial members on our books.

Weeds have been an ongoing issue. Whilst our problems may not be as bad as our neighbouring Landcare hill groups there are still pockets of weed offenders. A meeting at Kernot initiated the reforming of the Community Weeds Taskforce and the ongoing fight against costly and unsightly weeds.

We continued the new membership year with our partnership with Melaleuca Nursery of Inverloch with the offer of 10 free tube-stock for our financial members.

Forthcoming projects include.

Animal monitoring project.

Continued Hilda Falls maintenance

Wark memorial seat completion and landscaping.

Our finances are healthy and perhaps this next year we need to find ways of using some of this money wisely to benefit both towns and surrounding areas.

**Many thanks** to Secretary Dallas Handley, Treasurer Gary Martin and the very supportive committee of Ron, John , Daryl , Christine, Steve, Rob and Sean.

Where do we go from here? What do our members want? I hope our members can give us some direction of where we need to go and what we need to do.

And a quote to finish!

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

*― Chinese proverb*