**Loch-Nyora Landcare Group annual President's report 2021**

2021 Another year of Covid and uncertainly. A year of storms, damaging winds and lock-downs. A year of making tentative plans, modifications, cancellations and Zoom meetings.

Luckily we are in regional Victoria...the best part of Gippsland and in a community of support and connection. We have a membership of about 45 families and community groups and we cover the towns of Nyora and Loch and the surrounding rural properties with dairy, beef and lifestyle owners.

Our committee meets every second month, usually at the Loch Reserve and with an enthusiastic and growing committee. We are a huge supporter of the Loch Memorial Reserve and have assisted the Loch Kinder Bush program for their weekly program under the suspension bridge at the Reserve with weed control and re-planting. We have also applied for a grant from Melbourne Water to clear the area of blackberry, sweet pittosporum, wild tobacco and also wasps.

This year has been big for Loch Nyora. This year was the celebration of our 25th anniversary and luckily we were able to do this at the Jeetho hall with a lovely lunch, a guest speaker.......Dr Christine Connelly (our secretary) talking about Virtual fencing on Phillip Island and a reminisce of our first meeting back at Henrys Creek Sanctuary Loch in May 1996.

We plan to contribute an anniversary seat for both Loch and Nyora.

We communicate via regular emails and seasonal newsletters, we post photos and snippets on the local community Facebook pages and we always have a presence in the Loch Express which is a bi-monthly local publication. To celebrate our 25th anniversary we produced a 4 page brochure to highlight our history, what we do and our contact details.

We have had a long connection with Hilda Falls... a natural rock waterfall on Allsop Creek 2.5 km from Loch with access from the railway line or the proposed rail trail. We were invited by the South Gippsland Shire to visit the site to discuss viewing and signage details for the increased patronage. We look forward to its completion and being able to share this with others. We have already started planting at the Nyora end.

Our weed signs go on the highway town entrances each Spring for a few months to advise of weed season and the need to control blackberries, thistle and ragwort.

Again, we continue our relationship with Melaleuca Nursery at Inverloch which offers our members 10 free tube-stock each year included in the $35 membership fee.

We competed our Wark seat and planting at Cape Horn. we planted screening plants at the Loch SES/CFA scrap metal collection yard, we supported Kernot Church with newspaper recycling and the Loch Reserve with cans and glass and we re-visited our community plantings for a tidy-up and replant.

I would sincerely like to thank our wonderful committee...... Christine our Secretary, Gary our Treasurer, George our VP and the main body behind LNLG of Ron, Dallas, Steve, Daryl, Bruce, Pam, Heather and Allana

We have strong connections to our community but we need to engage our members and encourage their involvement more consistently. Covid has again made this difficult.

And as Dolly Parton once said "STORMS MAKE TREES TAKE DEEPER ROOTS

Rosemary Knox President