



Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

Action Plan 2022 – 2027

Draft - under review until adoption at the 2023 AGM; version 3

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Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

Action Plan 2022 – 2027

This plan has been developed by the Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group (NTVLC) membership to describe what our group stands for and how we, as a grass roots environmental organisation, have set the goals that will guide us through the next five years, and achieve them.

In 2017 we developed our first action plan in order to plan for the future. Our group had recently been formed by the amalgamation of two neighbouring Landcare groups; Nerrena and Tarwin Valley Landcare Groups. We discussed how the plan served our needs and represented our goals at each AGM, with all members having the opportunity to contribute. Over the years we developed a pretty good document that well represented our objectives and how we were going to achieve them.

This plan builds upon that document. As a group we collaborated online to develop a draft action plan to inform our group for the next five years. It is not a lot different from the last one, just reconsidered and refined.

You can navigate through the document using the links below.

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The Nerrena/Tarwin Valley Landcare group acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Landcare group area and pays respect to their past and present Elders. We honour and celebrate the spiritual, cultural and customary connections of Traditional Owners to country and the biodiversity that forms part of that country.

About us

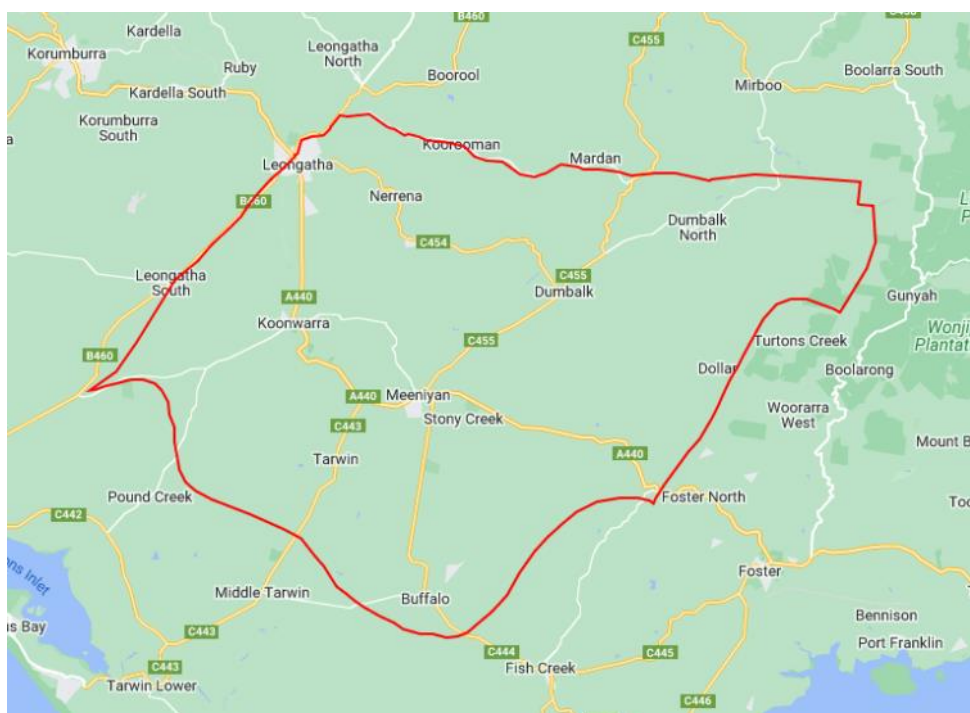
Our vision is "to protect and enhance the natural assets of the area, through action, community participation, education and awareness".

Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group (NTVLC) is a community group that exists to help landholders in the Landcare Group area develop projects and apply for funds to undertake protection and restoration of the natural environment and increase the viability of farming and food production. We work together to undertake community projects that enhance our natural environment, and support other agencies and community groups who have similar goals.

NTVLC consists of over thirty member families and comprises over 52,000 Ha of central South Gippsland. The group was formed from the amalgamation of the Nerrena Landcare Group and the Tarwin Valley Landcare Group in 2017. The Tarwin Valley Landcare Group was formed from the amalgamation of the Jindanook and Stony Creek Landcare Groups in 2011. The group has over 150 km of West and East branch of the Tarwin River frontage contained in its borders, and many tributaries. The Tarwin River flows into Anderson's Inlet, a wetland of National Importance and East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Site. The farm management actions landholders in the Tarwin catchment take impact the health of the Bunurong Coast. The main farming enterprises are dairy, beef production with some prime lamb and wool production.

Soils of the area are susceptible to erosion and acidification. Landslip, tunnel, gully and stream bank erosion occur within the catchment. Pest plant and animal issues are widespread in the area.

Our mission is "To maintain and improve the health, productivity and biodiversity of land and water in the group area".



Nerrena / Tarwin Valley
Landcare group boundary

This Action Plan is a living document and will be updated annually after a review at the Group Annual General Meeting.

Objectives

This action plan sets out the objectives of NTVLC. By achieving these objectives, NTVLC will be aligned with its mission and the aspirations of its membership. These objectives will be reported on by the NTVLC committee at the annual general meeting.

Actions included under each objective are the tasks that need to be undertaken by NTVLC (committee, partners and members) in order to achieve the group's objectives. Actions will be reviewed regularly.

NTVLC's objectives are:

- 1. To promote and implement projects addressing priority natural resource management issues**
- 2. To communicate and educate – community capacity building in natural resource management**
- 3. To foster community partnerships**
- 4. To maintain the NTVLC membership and the viability of the Landcare Group**
- 5. To make sure all members of the community have access to their local Landcare Group**



Objective 1:

To promote and implement projects addressing priority natural resource management issues

AIMS

NTVLC will work improve:

Ecological health biodiversity by addressing

- loss and fragmentation of native vegetation
- weed invasion
- feral animal impacts on native species
- water quality and aquatic ecosystem health

We will support

- viability and sustainability of local agriculture
- regenerative farming practices that support soil health and biodiversity to sequester carbon

We will contribute to

- community knowledge and capacity to manage natural resources
- climate change adaptation

ACTIONS

NTVLC will:

- provide training workshops and farm walks
- share information through our newsletter, web page and social media
- apply for grants and funding that reflect our members needs
- work with natural resource management bodies and aligned community organisations to identify and fund work to increase natural assets
- Provide support to members through peer to peer mentoring



Objective 2:

To communicate and educate – community capacity building in natural resource management

AIMS

NTVLC will provide the community with the resources:

- to inspire best practice natural resource management
- To implement sustainable regenerative farming practices

NTVLC will seek feedback from members to:

- tailor our activities to community needs.
- address community interests

NTVLC will seek training to enhance group skills in

- communication and engagement
- practical Landcare skills
- succession planning

ACTIONS

NTVLC will:

- publish a regular newsletter
- maintain a website and social media presence
- organise regular training workshops, meeting guest speakers and farm walks
- communicate through the local media where possible
- members and participants will be canvassed for their ideas and suggestions as suitable opportunities arise
- adopt communication and activity protocols that can adapt to public health emergencies and other contingencies as required or legislated



Objective 3:

Foster community partnerships

AIMS

NTVLC will create and maintain partnerships that will grow community capacity in Landcare

- natural resource management
- regenerative practices
- climate change adaptation

ACTIONS

NTVLC will collaborate with relevant organisations to further common objectives. We will engage and work with

- other Landcare groups, networks and organisations
- local, state and federal government and their agencies
- schools and community groups
- landholders
- anyone who is interested



Objective 4:

Maintain the NTVLC membership

AIMS

NTVLC will put practices in place so that:

- new members are attracted to NTVLC and existing members renew their membership
- membership records are maintained
- members' skills are recognised and utilised

ACTIONS

NTVLC will maintain memberships and members interests by:

- using the Landcare Portal to manage memberships and membership payments
- reviewing membership fees at the group AGM
- encouraging community members to become members of our group
- widely advertising activities
- Undertake a skills audit to identify group strengths



Objective 5:

Access and equity

AIMS

NTVLC will put practices in place so that:

- all members of the community are empowered to be fully involved in the NTVL groups activities

ACTIONS

- All members of the community are encouraged to share their needs with the group so that access to farm walks, field days, working bees can be facilitated.
- Venues for activities are chosen with regard for access for all abilities.
- Activities will be planned with agendas that are inclusive and mindful of members needs, including extra time to accommodate everyone.
- Communications such as websites, emails and newsletters will be formatted to be readable and accessible to people with impaired vision.
- Provision is made so that people without access to communication technology can be informed and participate.
- Landcare event organisers will incorporate technology where appropriate to make activities available to all.
- All participants in Landcare activities are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. The Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare group has a commitment to provide a healthy and safe environment free from bullying and sexual harassment and has appropriate procedures in



Objective 6:

Support members to develop and action Landcare projects on public and private land

AIMS

NTVLC will:

- help member Landholders to obtain funding for Landcare works where the group believes the project is worthwhile and fulfils group objectives
- apply for funding for Landcare group activities
- work with community groups to enhance the local environment by providing advice and helping with working bees

ACTIONS

- seek funds for projects and equipment. Members can suggest and request we seek funding for projects and equipment that they believe will improve the natural environment
- prepare funding applications as required
- work with South Gippsland Shire Council on revegetation of the Great Southern Rail Trail
- weed control with the Meeniyen Recreational Reserve committee for the Bicentennial walk.
- foster connections between the group and the Meeniyen Community Garden



Action List

2023/2024 year (reviewed annually)

BLACKSPUR CREEK WETLANDS PROJECT ACTIONS

Blackspur Creek project plan

Link to project page on our website [here](#)

- Acknowledge the traditional landowners and respect the human history of the area
- Continue to communicate and liaise with relevant public land managers, adjoining landholders and community groups
- Enhance the experience of Great Southern Rail Trail users to encourage and attract tourism
- Restore biodiversity and ecological function
- Facilitate ongoing research, monitoring, learning and appreciation of the natural features.
- Continue monthly bird monitoring walks in the project area

CURRENT PROJECTS

Community conservation in the Tarwin Valley 2022 - 2024

The foundation of Landcare is weed control, revegetation, waterway protection and community engagement. These are our strengths and focus as Landcarers and our works projects reflect this. Our Community Conservationist workshop was delivered by Remember the Wild (RTW), will share how to use narrative persuasion to affect behaviour change. Using our blackberry control project, we will explore how weed control can be effectively undertaken by part time landholders. Two of our projects involve fencing waterways and replanting native vegetation. One will use tubestock and the other direct seeding. Both landholders are experienced but the sites are challenging. These will make compelling case studies, but more importantly protect local waterways, improve sediment and nutrient flow into the Ruby and Good Creeks, and ultimately the Bunurong coast. There are scant remnants of native vegetation on both sites that will be protected and enhanced.

The fourth project involves removing weed species from the roadside and planting endemic species. This will be the last major planting in an ongoing project involving adjoining landholders. This project has engaged neighbours, family and friends working together to protect and enhance roadside vegetation. This roadside forms an important biolink between preserved remnants and the Tarwin River.

RTW will work with us to develop a comprehensive engagement plan, outlining recommendations to help us target new audiences and achieve community awareness and participation leading to improved regional environmental outcomes.

VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS

ACTIONS

Victorian Landcare grants are usually available to apply for annually

- help member Landholders to obtain funding for Landcare works where the group believes the project is worthwhile and fulfils group objectives
- apply for funding for Landcare group activities

CURRENT PROJECTS

Community conservation in the Tarwin Valley 2022 - 2024

Our project is well underway with the case studies onground works being actioned and completed during the 2022-23 year.

Our resources associated with these case studies have begun to be prepared drawing on the learnings of our workshop with Remember the Wild held on August 23rd in Koonwarra. This workshop showed us how to connect people with the natural world through stories of their members and projects. To attract and inspire people in Landcare we need to be telling our story and highlighting the benefits of the work we do.

Our first video story has been prepared and we will use the communication strategy that is being developed to help us get our message out into the world.

See all about it on the project page

<https://www.nerrenatarwinvalleylc.org.au/community-conservation-in-the-tarwin-valley-projec/>

Community tree planting project

Inspired by the success of our pop up community tree planting as part of our Apple tree Wetlands restoration project we aim to have several community plantings - including national tree day and Landcare week activities. With no major projects this year as we needed to clear the three major projects we started the year with - we felt it was time to get back to our Landcare roots and re-engage the community with core Landcare activities.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

ACTIONS

As required where the projects fit with the group ethos and memberships' goals

- assist with organisation and publicity
- help during working bees
- support members to undertake local community projects

CURRENT PROJECTS

Restoring the Meeniyán Bicentennial bush walk at the Meeniyán recreation reserve

The group meets regularly to work on weeding and restoring the Meeniyán Rec Reserve Bushland. The group meets on the second Wednesday and last Sunday of the month at the recreation reserve.

Please bring along gardening gloves, digging tools, secateurs and loppers, saws if you have them.

Go along to the next meeting to help restore a lovely piece of community infrastructure, learn about weeds and weed control and have fun with a great group.

Link to the project page on our website [here](#)

Bird Monitoring on the rail trail in the Black spur creek wetland project area

The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the bird monitoring information sign on the rail trail at the Black Spur creek bridge. (we wont be going if it is hot, smoky, super windy, stormy or extreme or above fire danger - so check our FB for updates if it looks squiffy)

Everyone is welcome to join in. The time of the walk can be found on the Google calendar on the home page our website. Times depend on daylight saving, and sunset times. We try and give ourselves enough light to see the birds for proper I.D. purposes.

If you have them, bring your binoculars, camera, smart-phone with the the Birdata app installed and appropriate clothing, water, sunscreen etc. This is a kid friendly activity and is suitable for people with excellent bird knowledge or none. Everyone welcome. If you cannot make our Wednesday outings, you are encouraged to take part independently, using the shared sites on the Bird Data app. Check our webpage for more details [here](#)

