

Biolinks Alliance 2019 Symposium  
**CREATING THE REFUGES:**  
Improving health and resilience to remnant ecosystems at a time of climate change

Small patches of vegetation make a disproportionately large contribution to the resilience of a region's biodiversity and they require special attention.

Ecosystem components that need attention and

Leading pr

**FREE WALKS**  
Biolinks Alliance  
Unlock the mysteries of our landscape and help to create a vision for its future



The map shows the Heathcote Biolinks Project Area, outlined in orange. It includes several creeks: Wild Duck Creek, Mount Ida Creek, Wappentake Creek, Menzies Creek, Back Creek, Sa-Idy Creek, and Turner Creek. Towns marked on the map include Redesdale, Heathcote, Taaborac, and Pyalong. A north arrow is also present.



On the Heathcote and surrounds Biolinks Walkshop you will experience the amazingly diverse regions of the district – forest, rivers, creeks and grasslands.

Learn from expert ecologists, traditional owners and landcare heroes:

- How the landscape may have looked and functioned
- What is missing from the landscape now and why it matters
- How we can protect our threatened species

**Bus leaves the Heathcote Information Centre**  
AT 9.30am Sunday, April 14, 2019

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

lunch and refreshments provided • Bring your own cup  
For more information [www.biolinksalliance.org.au](http://www.biolinksalliance.org.au)  
or email [elli@biolinksalliance.org.au](mailto:elli@biolinksalliance.org.au)



## Message from the Chair

### Paul Foreman

It's been another progressive year for Biolinks Alliance, and I continue to feel lucky and privileged to be working with such a passionate and talented group of conservationists committed to seeing central Victoria's amazing environment protected for future generations. We have further improved our capacity to secure independent funding; hosted leading conservation biologist and researcher Dr. Peggy Eby in another successful public event in Bendigo (see below); staged our fourth high-quality symposium in Euroa, 'Bolstering the Refuges'; and developed a new organisational Strategic Plan – increasing our focus on working with member groups to fund and implement landscape-scale conservation projects, such as Glideways and Restoring Lost Landscapes.

This shift to investing more in projects has been a long time in the making, but the Board is united in the view that large landscape-scale conservation projects are needed now, more than ever. As humanity grapples with the profound challenge of holding global warming within 1.5°C, big and bold nature-based climate solutions are increasingly being given more attention for their potential to draw-down carbon, while also enhancing food security, water supply and biodiversity. In March of this year the United Nations announced the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, which aims to massively scale-up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems. We strongly believe Biolinks can help catalyse this sort of change here in central Victoria. Through our projects we aim to collaborate with the community to begin this shift towards a more sustainable future. We have already commenced Glideways projects in

the Strathbogies, Broadford and Macedon Ranges regions, aimed at restoring habitat and connectivity for threatened gliders. We are also using new techniques to help revive grasslands, repair the damaged inflicted on woodlands and forests in the goldfields, and to restore platypus habitat in concert with philanthropists, communities, academics and Traditional Owners.

I would like to warmly thank our generous donors and sponsors, without whose support our work would not be possible. I would also like to thank the Board, especially our hard-working Secretary Peter Mitchell. Two retiring Board members have made a wonderful contribution, namely: Karen Alexander – a fearless founding Biolinks advocate and convenor of the Fundraising Committee; and James Nelsson representing the North Western Goldfields and Loddon Plains region. New members this year are Treasurer Pat Scanlon, Lachlan McIntyre and Peter Evans.

Thanks must also go to our amazing, dedicated staff: Sophie Bickford, Linda Parlane and Ellie McKenna; as well as to all the speakers at our Symposium and special events, plus our valued member groups and volunteers.

We are indebted to you all. Thank you for helping to make the Biolinks dream become a reality, and protecting what is unique about central Victoria. I look forward to continuing working together with you. Our very future depends on it.

*Below: Paul Foreman addresses The Walkshop participants at Wild Duck Creek.*



# Executive Director's Report for the Annual Report 2018-19

Dr Sophie Bickford

It is hard to believe that it has been four years since the AGM in Castlemaine, when we became an incorporated organisation, elected our first board and adopted our first strategic plan. In that time the need for a new network to restore and reconnect landscapes at big scales has become more apparent than ever. The dedicated Biolinks Alliance board, volunteers and member community groups working in central Victoria understand this and, despite the last four years seeing a withdrawal in government investment in nature conservation in Australia, they have remained committed and resourceful, continuing their significant conservation efforts.

The new strategic plan developed this year lays out an approach to continue to support and grow the important work of our member groups, founded in the vital relationships and knowledge developed over the years in building this organisation.

Key to implementing the plan is accessing new sources of funding for the environment. This year we concluded our two year Helen Macpherson Smith Trust funded project to develop a diverse fundraising program for the organisation. BA now has a much-enhanced capacity to seek funding from new sources and to use different fundraising tools. Over the 2-year project, 465 people attended the two high-profile speaker and two knowledge-sharing Symposium events. Conversations with those engaged at events have continued through newly developed social media channels. The project garnered over 300 more Facebook followers, and 501 people signed up to the Alliance's email list to receive event notifications and newsletters. The events were attended by representatives from a high proportion (70%) of the Alliance member organisations. Knowledge sharing between member networks was also enhanced by the knowledge hub on the website that was expanded through this project. The new website was visited by 6,864 unique website visitors since launched in September 2017.

This year's progress has relied almost entirely on the generosity of visionary private donors and philanthropic trusts; with over 70% of our income from donors and 16% from philanthropic trusts. Only 8% of the Alliance's funding this year was from government. As well as building the organisation's resilience and sustainability, the funding has allowed us to continue to run high-quality knowledge sharing events and begin to implement our goal to establish large-

scale transformative landscape projects in partnership with our member groups. I want to acknowledge once again how significant this support has been.

While at times I have felt frustrated that the Alliance has not been able to do more, more quickly, to implement its 21st Century solutions to landscape-scale ecological protection and repair, I remind myself that we are working in a new and still maturing field – conserving the processes that support biodiversity to be resilient and adapt to changing climates, and that 'landscapes' are less tangible than a single block of bush or species – so are less in people's, funders' and policy makers' minds.

But hearteningly this year in the United States a 'Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act' was introduced into Congress and adopted with bi-partisan support, in response to the United Nations Report on the Global Biodiversity Crisis released in May 2019. If this can happen in the US in these fractious times, perhaps there is hope in Australia for this too.

Policy issues aside, what has been the single most heartening thing this year is the noticeable groundswell of people wanting to act on our increasingly stressed natural environment. We see this in our growing donor programs, attendances at our events, and applications to volunteer time and expertise. I really look forward to the year ahead, with Biolinks Alliance providing ways to ensure their individual actions add up to really make a difference to biodiversity, sustainability and communities in central Victoria.

*"It's been so lovely to work out that there is a whole group of people 10 minutes from our doorstep that are just as passionate about improving the landscape and looking after things for future generations, as we are. The fact that they've got such heft in terms of the scientific knowledge behind this process makes us feel like we can actually make some impacts working with the Biolinks Alliance."*

*Participant at the Heathcote L2L Walkshop*

# Australia's Great Wildlife Migrations: Restoring Habitats for Nomadic Nectar-feeding Birds and Bats

In March 2019 Biolinks Alliance hosted the visit to Central Victoria of leading conservation biologist, Dr Peggy Eby, who received an enthusiastic response to her inspiring talk. The sell-out audience in Bendigo heard Dr Eby tell the wonderful story of Australia's unique, but little-known, wildlife migrations. She laid out her ground-breaking research which reveals that nectar-eating birds and bats fly vast distances across the continent, tracking nectar-rich bushlands as they flower.

Dr Eby told us about a particular Grey-headed Flying Fox that she tracked. In one night, this animal flew over 70 km to three widely-spaced foraging sites, and then back again to its roost by morning. It turns out such heroic night-time expeditions are pretty typical for the species, and they are also doing good. Flying foxes spread pollen from one isolated patch of bush to another, increasing genetic diversity, and boosting the resilience of our bushlands and forests to climate change.

Dr Eby's talk showed that Grey-headed Flying Foxes are climate and habitat loss "refugees". They have taken up residence in Bendigo, and other urban areas, in response to a warming climate and the destruction of their preferred habitat elsewhere. Her research has identified the vital importance of very small areas of winter-feeding habitat. Only a handful of the nectar-producing plants that flying foxes rely on blossom regularly in winter, causing winter feeding 'bottlenecks'. These winter bloomers ensure the animals do not starve. But very few small patches of them remain, and mostly on privately-owned land.

She reminded us that other nomadic nectar-feeding wildlife – particularly threatened native birds like Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots - have also suffered massive reductions in their numbers. The warming climate, habitat destruction and the winter-feeding bottleneck are contributing to their rapid decline as well. The great news is that Dr Eby's research shows how we can help these species survive and flourish. She told the audience that bushland "restoration and repair is an idea whose time has come".

She urged us to prioritise planting "the species and the habitats that provide food during 'bottlenecks'", pinpointing 8 species of eucalypts and melaleucas which appear to support nectar-dependant birds and bats in winter in SE Australia. As Dr Eby said, we must protect, restore and reconnect habitat over vast distances – scaling-up our local efforts in a coordinated and strategic fashion, and "Biolinks Alliance is the prime avenue... to do this work in Victoria" she said.

*"I thought today's presentation was very good. It's nice to see someone focusing on the science of nectar flows, and how that relates to the species that are important for continued populations of those species."*

*Jess Millroy, Member of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club*

Below (left to right): Peggy Eby address at the Capital Theatre, Bendigo • Taxidermy display of local species provided by Bendigo Field Naturalists • A Grey-headed Flying Fox drinking nectar from Silky Oak flowers. Photo kindly provided by Vivien Jones.



# Biolinks Alliance Symposium 2019

24th May 2019, Euroa Community Conference and Function Centre

## Bolstering the refuges: Restoring health and resilience to remnant ecosystems at a time of climate change.

Small patches of remnant vegetation in rural landscapes make a big contribution to maintaining a region's biodiversity. They deserve special attention and management, and with climate change there is an even stronger case for their conservation. In introducing the symposium, Dr Sophie Bickford emphasised the many values of these refuges, but warned that restoring functional, diverse and resilient ecosystems at the scale required will be very demanding.

The Symposium was attended by over 100 people, who enjoyed stimulating presentations by keynote speakers Dr Jacqui Stol (CSIRO Land and Water), Professor Don Driscoll (Director, Centre for Integrative Ecology, Deakin University), Paul Foreman (La Trobe University and Blue Devil Consulting) and Assoc. Professor Euan Ritchie (School of Life & Environmental Sciences, Deakin University). The afternoon was spent looking at restoration in action at the Euroa Arboretum and Janet and Justus Hagen's property at Miepoll. In the evening, Dean Ingwerson (Birdlife Australia) spoke about conservation of woodland birds and Regent Honeyeaters in particular.

The speakers all began with our current situations. Jacqui spoke of the former woodlands that are now farmlands with scattered paddock trees and remnant patches, and Don described how fragmentation of habitat for agriculture is threatening beetles in particular, and insects in general

across the world. Paul spoke about the grasslands that were probably created by Aboriginal burning but are now transformed by introduced plants and grazing with loss of the many forbs that enrich grasslands. Euan spoke of the loss of digging mammals and the big impact this has had on ecosystem functions. Restoration of ecosystems may be impeded without these key species.

Jacqui and Paul both described how grasslands can be transformed into more diverse and resilient states, and Jacqui and Dean talked about protecting and restoring woodland health and connectivity as essential for species conservation. Euan described several successful efforts to reintroduce digging mammals, primarily by enhancing habitat diversity. And Dean spoke of the often disappointing but gradually successful work to bring back woodland birds.

Ways to restore ecosystems were demonstrated during the field trip. Cath Olive (Euroa Arboretum) described efforts at re-establishing grasslands at Euroa, Shane Monk (Taungurung man) and Phil Hawkey (Country Fire Authority) discussed Indigenous burning, and Jim Begley (Goulburn Broken CMA) covered the need for climate-adapted seed sources. At Miepoll, Janet and Justus showed how these techniques might be scaled up on farmlands.

Demanding work indeed, but essential for the restoration of healthy and resilient ecosystems during this time of climate change.

Below (clockwise): Jacqui Stol from CSIRO on restoring a functioning Box Gum woodland • Shane Monk and CFA chief discussing and demonstrating fire as a tool to restore grasslands • Assoc Professor Euan Ritchie: forest restoration and reintroduction of digging mammals • Euroa Arboretum Program Manager, Cath Olive welcomes participants and explains innovative restoration techniques used there.



# Landscape Projects

## Developing a scalable model for landscape repair

The community is seeking effective solutions to restore the health and resilience of the natural environment. We are excited by the progress we have made this year in developing and applying a model, that we are calling Local 2 Landscape (L2L) action planning to service that need. L2L is a new scalable process being developed by the Biolinks Alliance to support the development of a collective and ecologically-informed understanding of the landscape and the uptake of best practices for transformational landscape repair.

This year we have begun L2L processes in a number of regions, tailoring them to the community's needs. We have been refining knowledge-sharing and conservation planning tools and processes, as well as developing pilot restoration projects ready for implementation pending funding.

In the Heathcote region we launched a Local 2 Landscape project with a landscape re-visioning field day. Over sixty farmers, Landcarers, viticulturalists, bush block owners and hobby farmers came together at a day long 'Walkshop'. With Taungurung elder Shane Monk, ecologist Paul Foreman, and hydrogeologist Jon Fawcett, they explored key ecological elements of the Heathcote landscape, their land use history and current health and opportunities for restoration. Participants learned about aspects they had not considered before, including 'the importance of groundwater and natural spring systems', 'what the native landscape should look like' and 'importance of understory and how drastic land change has been'. Walkshop participants were encouraged by the L2L project bringing together interested individuals who to this point have largely been working alone, to target and align their individual efforts to ensure they have impact. Projects are being explored around large old trees, improving the water retaining ability of Wild Duck Creek and its catchment, building larger-scale ecological connectivity, and habitat 're-aging' for Phascogales, Sugar Gliders and Swift Parrots.

Glideways in the Melbourne Ark is developing local capacity to undertake targeted Squirrel Glider and

Phascogale (Tuan) restoration projects that are guided by science, involve learning and collaboration, and are community-owned. In the Broadford area, collaborators are the South West Goulburn Landcare Network, and in the Euroa region the Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network. Citizen science projects involving nest box establishment and monitoring are being developed as a foundation for strategic restoration based upon informed baseline data of population distribution and abundance.

In the Wedderburn area a Local 2 Landscape planning process began. We are working with the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network to more broadly apply approaches to improve the hydrological relations of damaged bushland, so it can better withstand climate change and support species like the endangered Mallee Fowl, Dainty Phebalium and declining woodland birds such as Diamond Firetail and Hooded Robin by improving the diversity, productivity and resilience of habitat on public and private land.

As well as L2L projects that are underway, others having been scoped and funding is being sought for them. They include Platypus recovery in the Mt Cole creek: A community-led landscape approach to bring back an Icon species with the Crowlands/Warrak Landcare Group and Project Platypus; and Glideways in the Melbourne Ark: Community, collaboration and knowledge to restore Glider populations in the Macedon Ranges with Wombat Forestcare; Upper Campaspe Landcare Network, Green Hill to Black Hill Landowners.

*'I have probably only taken the area at face value previously, it seemed like a pretty uninviting environment. After gaining more knowledge, I am aware of more aspects and can appreciate what the area has been through and where it needs to go.'* Walkshop participant

Below (left to right): Walkshop participants explore the Box-Ironbark forest surrounding Heathcote • Proud Taungurung man, Shane Monk performs a Welcome To Country and traditional smoking ceremony on a property in Tooborac on the morning of Walkshop.



# Who We Are

## Biolinks Alliance Board Members



**Paul Foreman**  
*Chair*

Paul is an ecologist and botanist and with over 28 years of experience in a range of technical, strategic and management roles across Victoria and Australia. Paul has worked in State and Local Government as well as Trust for Nature and Bush Heritage Australia, and established his own consulting business in 2009. He is also currently researching the role of Aboriginal burning in grasslands and was the inaugural chair for Biolinks Alliance.



**Karen Alexander**  
*Vice Chair*

Karen has over 40 years experience working for the environment at local, state, national and international levels including Victorian Coordinator for Franklin campaign, Campaigns Manager for Australian Conservation Foundation, President of Bush Heritage, co-founder and President of local landcare group and network, Vice-President of Farm Tree and Landcare Association. She has revegetated most of her 24-acre property (cleared by her grandfather) which is now covenanted.



**Pat Scanlon**  
*Treasurer*

Pat is a qualified chartered accountant has over 20 years international and Australian experience in financial accounting, reporting, internal controls and professional services. His experience ranges from not for profit organisations, small and medium sized organisations and large organisations both in the public and private sectors. Pat currently works as a senior manager for a consultancy in Melbourne CBD.



**Dr Peter Mitchell**  
*Secretary*

Peter has a PhD in Zoology and has worked in natural history, ecology, land stewardship and education. Since retirement, he has continued his active involvement with local Landcare and environment groups in Mitchell Shire. In addition to his role as Secretary, he is an active participant in events and activities, and is particularly involved in developing the Knowledge Hub on the Biolinks Alliance website.



**Sophie Bickford**  
*Executive Officer*

Dr Sophie Bickford is a conservation ecologist deeply motivated to apply her expertise to real world ecological-social problems. After completing her PhD at The University of Adelaide, Sophie spent 7 years researching distribution patterns of biodiversity at the CSIRO Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research. She was the appointed a Lecturer in Biogeography at Monash University in 2007. Sophie worked for Carbon Planet Pty Ltd as their Chief Scientist, developing methodologies for conserving ecological-services using climate (carbon) and biodiversity markets. She has been Executive Director of Biolinks Alliance since 2010, relishing the challenge of growing a new organisation to implement large-scale and tenure blind conservation in Victoria.



**Lachlan McIntyre**

Lachlan works at Project Platypus based out of Stawell and servicing the Upper Wimmera/Grampians to Pyrenees region as a project manager/coordinator. Although his work is deeply imbedded in invasive plants and animals, he works closely with Landcare and partnering agencies/organisations in all areas of natural resource management towards creating healthier environments. He has a professional background in Community Development, Health Promotion, Natural Resource Management and Outdoor Education/Guiding and has worked in many sectors in Australia and abroad. Lachlan lives on the edge of the Grampians on a 120 acre property of remnant vegetation in a sustainable off-grid house.



**Ann McGregor**

Ann spent most of her childhood in rural Victoria, and greatly enjoy being in the bush at her family property at Mt Lonarch, north of Beaufort. She is a keen birder and has always been interested in nature conservation. She worked as an environmental planner and has volunteered with environmental groups for over 40 years. Her long-term volunteering focus has been the protection and ecological restoration of Merri Creek, which flows south from the Dividing Range through northern Melbourne.



**James Nelsson**

James works as the Loddon Plains Landcare Network Facilitator and GOANNA Project worker. He has many years' experience in project management, natural resource management and working with communities. He has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management and a Diploma of Conservation and Land Management. His experience in managing natural resource assets includes Wet-Sclerophyll forests, Box-Ironbark woodlands, Native grasslands, and Terrestrial and Wetland restorations.



**Gayle Osborne**

Gayle Osborne lives on a bush block in the Wombat State Forest and is a founding member and current convenor of Wombat Forestcare Inc., a group established in 2006 for the protection of the environmental values of the Wombat Forest. Wombat Forestcare was instrumental in lobbying the State Government for a Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) investigation into a number of state forests in the Wombat and Mt Cole areas.

## Staff



**Ellie McKenna**  
*Programme Manager*

Ellie joined the Biolinks Alliance team earlier this year after becoming interested in the organisation and volunteering at last year's Gary Tabor event. Ellie has a background in event coordination and has been involved in a variety of projects from grass roots to corporate and international events. Growing up on a farm in the Macedon Ranges, she holds a deep connection to the landscape and it's communities.



**Linda Parlane**  
*Philanthropy Manager*

Linda's conservation journey started while studying botany in the 1970s, moved to the forests of East Gippsland, returning to nature conservation with Biolinks in May. On the way, Linda took side trips through energy efficiency, residential sustainability, community renewable energy, Neighbourhood Houses, and community gardens, gaining experience in organisational management, advocacy, fundraising, and community development and engagement. Linda loves connecting generous, visionary people with fantastic opportunities to make a real difference to our environment.



**Tahli Tyler**  
*Communications Manager*

Tahli joined the Biolinks team for the 2018 Annual Symposium, Water the Great Connector. She has broad experience working in communications across the not for profit sector including the Australian Press Council, Sydney Theatre Company, Blak & Bright First Nations Literary Festival and the British Council. Most recently, Tahli was the communications and media coordinator for State Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP.

## Consultants

The Biolinks Alliance staff team is ably supported by:  
Roewen Wishart - *Xponential*  
Dale Simpson - *Bravo Consulting*  
Bronwyn Willis - *Writer*

**Wanda Millicer**  
**Inhaus.com.au - Design**

## Biolinks Alliance Member Groups

Biolinks Alliance now has an impressive line-up of 18 member groups, spread across central Victoria from the Grampians to Benalla and from Mt Macedon to the Murray. Our members include 8 Landcare Networks representing more than 92 local landcare groups; 8 Conservation Management Networks made up of

well over 70 member organisations; and two regional community conservation organisations. We estimate the combined membership to be, conservatively, more than 2000 landholders and local volunteer conservation practitioners.

- 1 Project Platypus is a community-based Landcare Network made up of 11 landcare groups working in the Upper Wimmera Catchment. Their revegetation, habitat protection, invasive plant and animal control and community engagement events are building the Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink.
- 2 The Loddon Plains Landcare Network (LPLN) supports more than 17 groups and 300 land managers, who are together responsible for about 300,000 ha of private land; as well as groups working on public land management with Parks Victoria and DELWP. LPLN is developing a landscape scale connectivity project, GOANNA, built on biolink projects and raising community awareness about the importance of biodiversity in an agricultural landscape.
- 3 Six local Landcare Groups and the Mid-Loddon Conservation Management Network combine to make the Mid-Loddon Landcare Network. Covering an area of over 95,000ha, the network is creating linkages from the central Victorian Box Iron-bark Forest across to the Loddon River. In Box-Ironbark country around Shelbourne they undertake habitat restoration and conservation works on farms, as well as on public land. They are leading the Save our Bush Stone Curlews Project.
- 4 Upper Campaspe Landcare Network supports 16 landcare groups in the Kyneton region. Their member groups are working together protect, restore and link habitat for the precious wildlife in the region.
- 5 Moorabool Landcare Network supports and resources 12 landcare groups and 5 Friends groups across the Shire of Moorabool. They are building biolinks to connect the Wombat Forest with the Brisbane Ranges.
- 6 South West Goulburn Landcare Network is an alliance between 8 Landcare Groups operating in the catchments running from the Great Dividing Range to the Goulburn River near Seymour. Their works include building the Piper Biolink.
- 7 The Upper Goulburn Landcare Network supports 18 member groups. Their varied projects include community wildlife monitoring, schools programs, farm planning, co-ordinated fox control and post-Black Saturday habitat rehabilitation.
- 8 Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network supports Newham and District Landcare Group, Deep Creek Landcare Group, and the Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group - working with the many new, absentee, small-acreage landholders in the region.
- 9 Kara Kara Conservation Management Network (CNM) comprises local Landcare, conservation and environment groups, State Government agencies and interested local community members. Kara Kara is dedicated to protecting and enhancing habitat through the creation and maintenance of well-managed biolinks about 2000 km<sup>2</sup> of Victoria's western goldfields; between St Arnaud and Moonambel, and from Morrl Morrl to the Avoca River.
- 10 Connecting Country is a community-based organisation that operates at a landscape scale to increase, enhance and restore biodiversity across the Mount Alexander Shire and surrounds in Central Victoria. It works to support the 30 local landcare and Friends groups in the district.
- 11 Whroo Goldfields Conservation Management Network works on the reserves and private land within the Box-Ironbark region of the Goulburn Broken catchment. They operate a coordinated fox control program in the area surrounding Puckapunyal Army Base and have installed over 1000 nest boxes for Phascogales and Sugar Gliders.
- 12 The Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network partners with any group working on biodiversity conservation in the Strathbogie Ranges, including landcare, conservation and environment groups, landholders, and Government Agencies. The Network tackles all sorts of conservation, biodiversity and land management issues, but is focusing on the most threatened ecosystems in the Ranges, including precious wetlands (spring soaks & bogs), rocky outcrops and high conservation value forests.
- 13 Wedderburn Conservation Management Network, made up of individuals and both public and private land managers, promotes profitable, productive, and sustainable human enterprises while conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Wedderburn area. Projects include Mallee Fowl protection, weed control and Grassy Woodlands revegetation.
- 14 Ballarat Environment Network is an umbrella organisation for the many environment and conservation-focused groups in the Ballarat region. They manage 50 public reserves covering over 800 hectares for their biodiversity and conservation values, mostly in partnership with local groups.
- 15 Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork links 12 Landcare, friends groups and volunteers who care for the environment along Jacksons Creek and its tributaries, including Riddells Creek, from Keilor, through Sunbury and Riddells Creek, to Mt Macedon.
- 16 Federation of Environment and Horticulture for Macedon Ranges acts as an umbrella group for Environmental and Horticultural groups to meet and plan projects and events that benefit the environment, and passive enjoyment of the Macedon Ranges
- 17 Wombat Forestcare is a community group dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural ecosystems of the Wombat Forest and surrounding areas, which support many unique and threatened species. Their activities have a strong focus on community involvement, education and wildlife surveys.
- 18 Bendigo and District Environment Council are determined environmental advocates. They have worked extensively with the City of Greater Bendigo on a range of policies and planning schemes, and have maintained a constant public profile.

*"Today's been a really valuable day. It's brought together a whole range of people to engage with the science about managing agricultural landscapes of biodiversity... it's one thing to sit in your office and theorise about how conservation should work, but it's also really important to get a handle on how to integrate that effectively with land management on actual farms."*

*Professor Don Driscoll, director at Deakin University.*

## Thank You

The work of Biolinks Alliance has been made possible by the support of many people and organisations. We sincerely thank the philanthropic trusts, private donors, sponsors, Ambassadors and volunteers whose generous & enthusiastic support has made 2018 a successful year for us.

### PHILANTHROPIC TRUSTS



### DONORS

Gayle Osborne • Bill & Carol Holsworth • Brian & Diana Snape • Ann & Bruce McGregor • Tracie & David Ellis  
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Michael Fogarty • Chris Joyner • Anna Kelly • Lou Citroen • Tanya Castleman • Tahli Corin • Trevor Spiers  
 Jane & Ray Lacey • Anthony Hyde • Daryl Fleay • Sara Hines • Jerry Grayson • *Special thanks to Dr Peggy Eby*

## Acknowledgement of country

*Biolinks Alliance is proud to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the places where we live and work. We recognise the enduring relationship they have with their lands and water, and we pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.*

## Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the attached CVBA financial report for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (the Act). The Alliance is a Tier 1 association as defined in the Act and accordingly is not required to have the financial report audited. The report has been prepared by me in my capacity as a qualified professional accountant. The Board has determined that the Alliance is not a reporting entity.

### Financial summary for 2019:

The CVBA reported a surplus of \$65k for the 2019 financial year (2018—surplus of \$104k), with income of \$246k being offset by expenditure of \$181k.

The main source of income for CVBA came from donations and grants. Income from donations totalled \$164k which included major donations from William Holdsworth, Brian & Diana Snape and a generous party associated with Biolinks Alliance. Grant income was \$70k primarily comprised of RE Ross Trust of \$40k and City of Greater Bendigo \$20k.

Major items of expenditure were as follows

- Salaries and wages (including superannuation) of \$90k
- Contractor Expenses of \$30k
- Consulting and Accounting of \$26k
- Advertising and Marketing of \$13k

Closing funds at 30 June 2019 were \$287k (2018: \$230k) and net assets (total assets less liabilities) totalled \$266k (2018: \$201k)

At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due

Pat Scanlon FCA  
 September 2019

Paul Foreman, *Chairman*

Pat Scanlon, *CA Treasurer*

# Financial Statements

CENTRAL VICTORIAN BIOLINKS ALLIANCE INC.  
 ABN: 54 216 785 599  
 Financial Statements

<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2019</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2018</b>
	<b>¢</b>	<b>¢</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	166,187	51,109
Grant Income	70,000	176,750
Interest Income	2,114	1,008
Sponsorship receipts	0	4,000
Tea Towel Sales	389	0
Ticket sales	7,185	5,346
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>245,875</b>	<b>238,213</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Advertising & Marketing	12,675	1,965
Bank Fees	418	10
Catering	5,857	0
Consulting & Accounting	25,772	26,026
Contractors - Executive Director	22,775	49,280
Contractors - Other	6,876	0
Depreciation	0	500
Events	10,409	0
General Expenses	0	132
Gifts	63	95
Insurance	567	2,132
Meals & Entertainment	275	9,247
Office Expenses	0	1,227
Postage & Mail	343	0
Printing & Stationery	1,328	1,388
Subscriptions	791	0
Superannuation	7,781	2,614
Tea Towels For Resale	919	0
Telephone & Internet	0	1,711
Training	0	275
Travel - National	1,071	4,185
Venue & equipment hire	770	1,714
Wages and Salaries	82,048	31,652
WorkCover	175	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>180,913</b>	<b>134,153</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>64,962</b>	<b>104,060</b>

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>30 Jun 2019</b>	<b>30 Jun 2018</b>
	<b>¢</b>	<b>¢</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
Expense Account	5,000	0
Main Account	41,656	165,322
Saving Account	240,462	65,092
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>287,118</b>	<b>230,414</b>
<b>Donations Receivable</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(1,500)	(1,500)
Office Equipment	1,500	1,500
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>288,571</b>	<b>230,414</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	3,839	0
PAYG Withholdings Payable	10,570	550
Provision for Annual Leave	2,205	2,205
Provision for Leave in Lieu	1,713	1,713
Superannuation Payable	3,636	654
Trade Creditors	0	21,673
Wages Payable - Payroll	0	1,974
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>21,963</b>	<b>28,769</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	214	214
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>22,177</b>	<b>28,983</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>266,394</b>	<b>201,432</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	64,962	104,060
Retained Earnings	201,432	97,372
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>266,394</b>	<b>201,432</b>

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 can be viewed at [www.biolinksalliance.org.au/financial-report-2019](http://www.biolinksalliance.org.au/financial-report-2019)



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