



Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group

Action Plan 2022 – 2027

Draft - under review until adoption at the 2022 AGM; version 2

Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group
c/- Secretary 70 Caithness Road Koonwarra 3954
ABN 49 910 468 320
Phone President Sue 0432 379 119;
Secretary Jill 0419 382 379
Email ntvlandcare@gmail.com
Web www.nerrenatarwinvalleylc.org.au



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

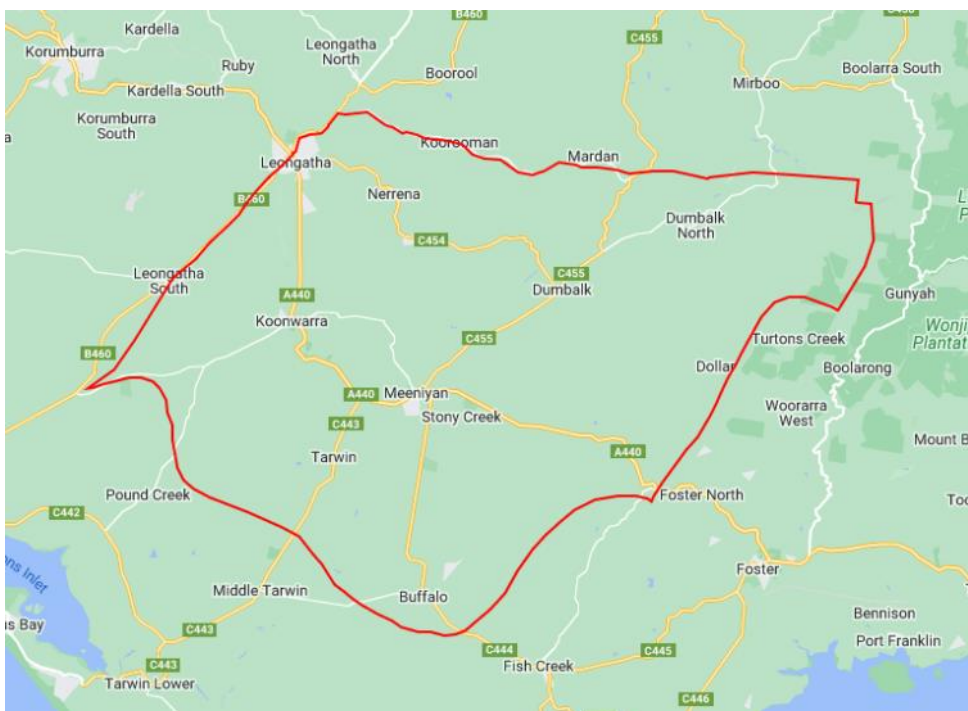
Our vision is "to protect and enhance the natural assets of the area, through action, community participation, education and awareness".

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 place.



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 Meeniyian Recreational Reserve committee for the Bicentennial walk.
- foster connections between the group and the Meeniyian Community Garden



Action List

2022/2023 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

Linking the old and new South Gippsland Highways by restoring the Apple Tree Wetlands Project runs 1/4/2022 to 30/6/2023

The Gippsland Transport Environmental Projects Pilot Program gives the Landcare group the opportunity to restore the Apple Tree Wetlands, named after a venerable old apple tree beside the rail trail, by removing the noxious woody weeds and replanting indigenous vegetation. Restoring the vulnerable Strzelecki Gum woodland, remnants of which remain on the roadside, will increase habitat and connectivity across the landscape. The restored wetland will provide a wide range of services including flood mitigation, improved water quality, and amenity. This project links the remnant vegetation between the current South Gippsland Highway, the new South Gippsland Highway, and the Tarwin River creating landscape connectivity and habitat for birds, animals and plants.

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



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

Regenerating the Farm; connecting soil, trees, water and people

Project runs from 1st October 2021 to 31st May 2023

Members of our Landcare Care group have been planning farm revegetation works, along with the implementation of farming practices that improve soil health, protect existing vegetation, protect waterways and enhance biodiversity. Whilst understanding individual components of restorative agriculture our group farmers seem to need tools to pull the whole story together and make farm improvements that provide lasting and valuable contributions to food production, habitat restoration for wildlife.

Our Landcare project will revegetate a hectare of Damp Forest in the Ruby hills with fencing and planting indigenous endemic vegetation chosen to protect the draining lines, reduce erosion and provide habitat. We will hold a field day in association with this project to introduce the project to the Landcare group and discuss waterway protection, fence placement, remnant protection, size of plantation and ecosystem services provided by a well planned and executed tree break.

Group members will attend a one day workshop discussing Regenerative Agriculture. We will be learning about the basics of regenerative agriculture. This should inform future Landcare works and give our landholders the tools necessary to take further action on their properties to increase outputs whilst maintaining environmental values. Using a whole of farm and integrated landscape approach, our landholders will be able to plan improvements that will sustain the ongoing productivity of their properties, and habitat for indigenous species. Facilitated by Deane Belfield of Regenerative Australian Farmers, this workshop will be an opportunity for Landcare group members to increase their understanding of regenerative agriculture and carbon farming.

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



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 Meeniyen Bicentennial bush walk at the Meeniyen recreation reserve

The group meets regularly to work on weeding and restoring the Meeniyen 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](#)

