

During the year we were awarded a Victorian Landcare grant to 'Make the Tarwin Terrific again'. We received \$15,000

Here is the official announcement

***Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group***

***Making the Tarwin Terrific again – \$15,000***

*Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group will improve water quality in the Tarwin River and provide vegetation connectivity in the catchment by fencing off remnant vegetation in gullies on two private properties. The group will also increase awareness of the biodiversity around the Black Spur through education and bird monitoring projects.*

Unfortunately, 2020 was the year of COVID-19 restrictions, which made delivering some of our outcomes challenging to say the least. Community plantings were off the agenda with social distancing restrictions, so we held virtual tree plantings where members were encouraged to work on small scale local projects and revegetate at home. We could not have farm walks, so we made a virtual farm walk video which was put on our website.

Our Website [www.nerrenatarwinvalleylc.org.au](http://www.nerrenatarwinvalleylc.org.au) is regularly updated and maintained. We have introduced drop down menus which enable us to share more information in an ordered way and have updated the calendar program we use to Tockify.

We sent 13 email newsletters during the last financial year using our Mail Chimp account. Our mailing list comprises 62 Landcare group members and 21 extra subscribers to the BSCW stakeholder news.

Our email address – [ntvlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:ntvlandcare@gmail.com) is monitored by all of the executive and received 86 messages which required 38 replies. All contact through the website is directed to the gmail account. People are able to sign up (and unsubscribe) to our newsletter through the Mail Chimp program.

We can currently meet outdoors in groups of ten, so bird monitoring has cautiously recommenced with our next outing on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> (one week late). In the unlikely event there are more than ten attendees we will split the group.

In the future – I have contacted Stephen Pororpat, the palaeontologist featured in last weeks Sentinel Times and invited him to talk to a future meeting (by Zoom).

There are two grant streams current - National Landcare Program: Smart Farms Small Grants Round 4 -Category Farming - Natural Resources - Conservation and Protection

Outcome 1 – Increased adoption of best practice sustainable agriculture

Outcome 2 – Increase the capacity of land managers to adopt best practice sustainable agriculture

And a small volunteers support grant which is usually highly competitive and oversubscribed. With support we will apply for both.