

# NEW SPRINGS LANDCARE GROUP

Tuesday 11 March 2025, Bell Springs Lodge (Heather Hartley)

## MINUTES

### 1. MEETING OPEN 8.37 pm

- Welcome and apologies

Thanks to Heather for hosting

#### ○ ATTENDANCE

- Kym Gladigau (chair)
- Steve Perkins (deputy chair)
- Karen Ashford (secretary)
- Jenice Buchecker (committee)
- Judi McCallum (committee)
- Heather Hartley (host)
- Warren Coombes
- Steve Buchecker
- Anna Kakoschke
- Wayne Hein
- Karen Rief
- Phil and Lisa Eakins
- Dymphna Sprod
- Kathy Szalay
- Russell Meade

#### ○ Guests

- Natalia Diaz (LASA)
- Alan Brice (local landholder, formerly Harrogate Landcare Group)
- Wayne Brown (ecological restoration expert)

#### ○ APOLOGIES

- Steve Wright (treasurer)
- Heidi Sowerby
- Neil Carr
- Jo Carr
- Kate Constable
- Ross Leckie
- Carolin Williamson
- Sam Bye
- Hayden Schultz

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS

- Previous minutes of meeting held 21 January 2025 as circulated by email. Any amendments? Nil. **Moved:** Jenice Buchecker. **Seconded:** Steve Buchecker, **Passed** unanimously.

### 3. CHAIR'S UPDATE

- Kym thanked Alan Brice and Wayne Brown for their expertise and insights in staging the tree seeding demonstration ahead of this evening's meeting – Alan invited anyone who's interested to visit his place to see how the plantings from the 1990's are progressing. Meeting resolved to organise a field trip to Alan Brice's place.
- **Grassroot grants.** Grants are now open and close 15 April. Individual up to \$4k, groups \$20K.
  - Consideration for project to renovate seeder, buy seeds and sprays etc and support members/property holders for plantings and restoration (good for district too). Wayne Brown said property plans are useful to support funding applications by individuals and groups. Natalia Diaz suggests larger project done incrementally in stages over several years, such as biodiversity corridor initiatives. Kym says exec group will discuss further and consult with Will Hannaford.
- Carbon Farming Project update:
  - Donna Bartsch advised Kym it's progressing, not a lot to report right now.
- **Landscapes SA has some forums over the next couple of months.**
  - **BEGINNERS GUIDE TO CARBON FARMING.** dates for workshops are:
    - 20<sup>th</sup> of March at [Yankalilla Footy Club](#). Dinner provided.
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> of April at [Greenman Inn](#). Dinner provided.
    - 15<sup>th</sup> of May at [Clarendon Ag Bureau](#), guests welcome and light supper provided.
    - 29<sup>th</sup> of May, Bremerton Winery. Lunch provided. link to come.
    - 11<sup>th</sup> of June at Cobbs Hill Winery. Lunch provided. link to come.
    - 18<sup>th</sup> of June at Lobethal. Lunch provided. link to come.
  - **SOIL TESTING.** It's now time to do your soils tests. Kym mentioned NSLG member Russell Meade is a soil test expert. There are soil events also being held as per the following dates and locations:
    - **28<sup>th</sup> of March** (9.30-1.30ish) Soil pit at Derek Walters' (**Willow Creek**) with Amanda Schapel and Ed Scott. We will be looking at the soil pit, reminding ourselves of the importance of understanding your soil (texture, colour, horizons etc), sampling (hopefully have the Ute Guide by then), and constraints. Derek will have a demo of the SoilKee and talk to his carbon project. Ed will join in here as he was the sampler of the ACCU project. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1218715764659?aff=oddtcreator>
    - **7<sup>th</sup> of May** (9.30-2ish). Ben Ryan's with Dick Richardson (**Deep Creek**). Dick and Ben will talk to strategic grazing and soil health. We have some comparison data from when it was switched from conventional to strategic grazing so will talk to this. Amanda and Ed will also be here and talk to constraints and the importance of knowing your soils before managing them. Eventbrite link to come.

- **22<sup>nd</sup> of May** (9.30-1ish). Tim Bartsch (**Lobethal**). Amanda and Ed will have several pits (hopefully), on a sloping vineyard to look at constraints and how it can differ depending on environment. We will also look at Ute Guide. A demo of a variable rate trial with Elders, Thomas Jefferies, will also be done. Eventbrite link to come.
- **5<sup>th</sup> of May** (9.30-1ish). Cherry Macklins (**Ashbourne**), has two varying soil types and will pop soil pits on both and look at similar themes to above events, i.e. constraints, knowing before managing, Ute Guide, etc. Amanda and Ed will also be here for this one. Eventbrite link to come.

#### 4. OFFICE HOLDERS

- Treasurer: (absent, report provided) no major transactions, just cost of charity status. Kym says he's been in touch with Paul Edwards about the transfer of funds from the Tungkillo group now that NSLG is a registered charity.
- Secretary:
  - We are now covered by **LASA insurance** over all three categories, saving us more than \$700 a year compared to insurance through Ceneta. Big thanks to Landcare SA for this important financial relief, and thanks Natalia for your support during the application process. NSLG is covered for **Public Liability Insurance/Voluntary Workers Personal Accident Insurance/Protector / Association Liability Insurance**. The policy does not cover firearms, nor any burning activities.
  - Attended the **Northern Hills Biodiversity** meeting February 6 and gave a short report on NSLG and its activities. Key discussions at the meeting included feral pest management, dry conditions and water shortages, dam management and a bioblitz initiative.
    - Bioblitz is a citizen science snapshot study of specific location – surveying species in a specific area in specific time. Good initiative to get baseline data. Can have blitzes to try to find species that might be threatened or rediscover species not seen for a while. Open to public or groups. Natalia says there might be a bioblitz workshop likely be early May, possibly Bushland Park in Lobethal, which would include training on the i-naturalist platform. Info will be circulated in coming weeks.
  - Our **PO box renewal** is due by 31<sup>st</sup> March – price rise to \$181.
  - Landscapes Hill and Fleurieu advises a **Kaurna cultural tour** is on offer for free to landcare members, lunch included, on 28 March – departing from the Living Kaurna Cultural Centre at Warriparinga and travelling through the Hills and Fleurieu, guided by Corey Turner of Southern Cultural Immersion. Register through humanitix.
  - Crested Shrike Tit – if members are comfortable, secretary can coordinate a project report-back on tree progress for Billy-Jo.

- **Society for Ecological Restoration** has reached out to NSLG to advise “Make a Difference Week” is being held 31 May – 8 June. MADW is an annual week of global restoration action where individuals and organizations from around the world host and participate in local volunteer restoration events. SER then collects data from the local event hosts (e.g. number of volunteers, amount of work, etc.) in order to demonstrate the positive impact that globally coordinated local action can have on the world's ecosystems. Learn more about the initiative at <https://makeadifferenceweek.org/>.
- NSLG secretary will be giving a presentation to a community forum at Gumeracha at the end of the month about value of Landcare groups and engagement with HFLB

## 5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Natalia says **Landcare grants** are opening 22<sup>nd</sup> March. These are small grants for things like protective gear and minor equipment.
- **Farm fire units.** Concerns regarding coordination in a fire.
  - Kym says issues became apparent during the recent fire on Warmington Run.
  - Jenice and Steve raised the issue of farm fire unit coordination at the recent Brukunga BBQ – was told to ‘see coordinator’ but explained that had been attempted, thwarted by a lack of organisation.
  - Steve Perkins thanked those who helped protect his place.
  - Kym suggests having Mt Torrens CFS chat to the New Springs Group.
- **Water concerns.** Recent Northern Hills meeting was advised by Pia Charlton of HFLB that compliance officers have been assigned and a dam compliance crackdown is getting underway. It will use aerial observations to assess works undertaken without a permit. The focus is on illegal dams and dam enlargement. Desilting and general management mustn’t be used as a trojan horse for dam expansion. Anna says it’s a result of a ten-year review of water management plan. Authorities can see there are many more new dams, and that more water being used than allocated. If someone is found to have contravened the rules they are liable to pay for the restitution of the area to its original condition, and could also be fined.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Steve Perkins says **Pindone bait** allocation days coming up in the hills – dates are available [here](#).

Meeting closed 9.45pm

## 7. NEXT MEETING DATE: **Tuesday 6 May.**