

333.7305

S726

S. A. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
REPOSITORY COPY  
~~LANDSCAPE~~

ANNUAL REPORT

THE STATE MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE FOR THE  
YEAR AND DECADE OF LANDCARE



**LANDCARE**  
**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

JULY 1989 TO DECEMBER 1990

The Federal Government's contribution to the NSCS has been to set up a programme for Landcare. Through cooperation between the National Farmers Federation, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Government 1990 was declared the Year of Landcare, to be followed by the Decade of Landcare. This consists of programmes to encourage awareness, participation and education among rural and urban communities.

It was felt that it would be particularly important to involve urban communities who are sometimes unaware of how much their comfortable lifestyle and viable industries depend upon the productivity of the soil.

Financial assistance is being provided from the States and the National Soil Conservation Programme (NSCP) in order to make this possible.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In South Australia there are approximately 12.5 million hectares of arable farming land producing approximately \$2 billion of food and fibre. It has been estimated that about \$80 million is lost from productivity every year because of land degradation in its many forms.

### STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

In response to the Federal Government's initiative, the State Government announced the formation of a State Management Committee for the Year of Landcare (SMC). Its proposed programme was planned to encompass the involvement of Soil Conservation Boards, Agricultural Bureaux and the United Farmers and Stockowners Assoc. in field days, demonstrations, seminars, education programmes and a workshop orientated conference.

Terms of Reference for the Committee were:

1. To develop a coordinated approach to the creation of a community based and statewide program of events, demonstrations and other activities for the 1990 National Soil Conservation Year.
2. To develop and maintain a favourable community attitude towards the conservation of soil and land resources.
3. To facilitate the establishment of a Conference on Soil Conservation to encourage community input and ownership of a State Soil and Land Conservation Strategy.
4. To establish a forum for the integration of resources within the community and to develop a coordinated approach to soil and land conservation based on the Soil and Land Conservation Strategy.
5. To establish a framework for continued community involvement in soil conservation during the Decade of Soil Conservation.

## REPORT OF THE STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR AND DECADE OF LANDCARE

### INTRODUCTION

Soil and the land could be considered as Australia's most fundamental and precious resource.

A National Soil Conservation strategy (NSCS) has been developed by the Federal Government as a response to the National Conservation Strategy for Australia (June 1983). The overall aim of the NSCS is to conserve Australia's soil resources so that further soil loss and land degradation are prevented, and that economic and environmental balance is sustained.

To quote from the introduction to the NSCS:

"Australia's soils are a limited resource. Soils are formed slowly and must therefore be regarded for practical purposes as non-renewable in the context of current use and management decisions. They are basic to the maintenance of essential ecological processes and the production of food, fibre and shelter. The nation's long-term economic well-being depends on the management of soils for sustainable use.

Inappropriate land use and management have resulted in erosion; salinisation; acidification; reduced chemical fertility; degraded soil physical condition; polluted air, water and soil; sedimented streams, rivers, lakes, harbours and water storages; eutrophied water bodies; degraded irrigation lands; worsened floods; and adverse effects on dependent biota, both terrestrial and aquatic.

With proper use and management, land degradation can be reduced or contained; environmental damage can be minimised; and productivity sustained or improved".

The National Soil Conservation Strategy expressed the need to "educate the community about the interdependence of sustainable development and conservation", particularly with respect to the soil. Cooperation between farmers, conservationists and researchers as well as State and Federal Governments was seen to be vital in order to preserve the soil and its productivity.

The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon Lynn Arnold, invited a number of 'high profile' members of the community to join the Committee including representation from the government, soil conservation areas, commerce, education, water management and farmer organisations. The Committee has the services of an executive officer and a media relations officer. Sitting fees are provided and all reasonable travelling costs are funded.

Committee members are;

Mrs Barbara Hardy AO, Chairman with a long standing interest in soil conservation.

Dr John Radcliffe OAM, Director-General of Agriculture, with broad government experience.

Mr Mike Kluge, a member of the Soil Conservation Council and Chairman, Murray-Mallee Soil Conservation Board.

Mr Jeff Pearson, Chairman of the Advisory Board of Agriculture; Chairman of the Lower Eyre Peninsula Soil Conservation Board and a member of the Vegetation Management Authority.

Mr Don Pfitzner, President of the United Farmers and Stockowners Assoc. of SA.

Mrs Jacquie Gillen, Projects Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation, with links to conservation/environment groups (later replaced by Mr Mark Wilkins)

Mr Garth Boomer, Assoc. Director-General of Education in charge of curriculum.

Mr Ken Williams, Chairman, Southern Farmers, (later replaced by Mr Michael Hamilton, Managing Director, Financial Services Group, State Bank) with expertise from the commercial field.

Mr Roger Wickes, Chief, Soil and Water Conservation Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, with responsibility for coordinating soil and water conservation in the State.

Mr Don Alexander, (former Director-General, E and W S Dept.), joined the Committee during 1990, as Chairman of the Water Resources Council.

Executive Officer, Mrs Cicely Bungey AM and media relations Officer, Mr Don Finlayson (later Ms Lorraine Benson).

Lt. Gen. Sir Donald Dunstan KBE CB, Governor of South Australia, accepted the invitation of the Chairperson of the Committee through the Premier, to be the Patron for the Year of Landcare.

## INTERSTATE ACTION

At the same time that the South Australian Management Committee, was set up other States began the process of appointing similar Committee. However, South Australia was the first to be formally established.

A National Consultative Committee, with representation from all State Management Committees, was also proposed, and the SA Chairperson was the SA nomination to that body. The SA Executive Officer was appointed to the Federal/State Working Party.

The National Consultative Committee, later became LANDCARE AUSTRALIA LTD a company limited by guarantee which operates across all States and Territories "to develop a landcare ethic amongst all Australians", and has amongst its objectives the ability to raise funds on a tax-deductible basis. Mr Jim Kirk AC is the Chairman of Landcare Australia Ltd., and the Governor-General of Australia, the Hon Bill Hayden AC accepted an invitation to be the National Patron.

## STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The State Management Committee for the Year of Landcare met for the first time in August 1989.

It was decided to adopt the Mission Statement and the aim proposed for the national organisation:

"to develop a landcare ethic amongst all Australians and to raise consciousness of the fact that only careful management of the land and all its resources will maintain our present way of life and that of future generations."

Aim: "to ensure that Australia's lands are used within their capability by the year 2000 and that there is sustainable use of land from that time on."

The SMC established the following objectives for the 1990 Year/Decade of Landcare:

- To facilitate cooperation and coordination between all groups involved in landcare activities.
- To involve all South Australians in landcare activities during the Year and Decade of Landcare in ways which will assist in preventing and correcting misuse of land in their home environment, workplace and local community.
- To ensure that land use is recognised as each individual's responsibility by raising the level of community awareness, understanding and concern for effective and sustainable land use.
- To provide educational opportunities which will ensure that all South Australians are aware of the need for landcare and have a positive attitude to it.

To include in land use planning, recognition of the need for preservation and management of land with its native flora and fauna.

It was decided that the role of the SMC should be to stimulate the understanding of the whole community as to their dependence on the land, and to encourage as many people as possible to develop a landcare ethic. It was hoped that people and groups would plan and carry out projects during the Year and the Decade to remedy some of the harm that had been innocently done to South Australia's land since settlement in the early 1800s. During recent times people have begun to better understand the fragility of the soil and the unpredictable drought-prone climate so that management of the land has greatly improved.

The SMC recognised the enormous amount of excellent work which was already being done by community landcare groups and Soil Conservation Boards to promote and implement soil conservation measures.

The SMC believed that it was vitally important to develop a structure and operation which reflected the needs and aspirations of the whole community, Therefore it immediately began to arrange a comprehensive Landcare Forum.

### LANDCARE FORUM

This was held at the Rymill Conference Centre at Stirling in the Mt. Lofty Ranges in November 1989. It involved representatives from groups from across the whole community, who enthusiastically discussed soil conservation and landcare issues, and put forward many ideas which were adopted by the SMC. Dr. Brian Roberts, from the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education ( and founding member of the Soil and Water Conservation Association of Australia), respected throughout Australia for his knowledge of landcare, gave the keynote address.

Ideas and suggestions from the Forum were built upon to develop a comprehensive programme of activities to be initiated by the SMC during the Year of Landcare.

### OPERATION LANDCARE

The diverse projects were grouped under the general theme of "OPERATION LANDCARE", which became the title of the monthly newsletter produced by the SMC.

In order to improve communication and to involve as wide a cross-section of the community as possible, seven sub-committees have been established, the chairpersons of which form an executive group which reports to the SMC. The themes of the respective sub-committees are commerce and industry; primary industry; government departments coordination; local government and towns; communication and promotion; education; and resources (see diagram). This system has proved to be most satisfactory, each sub-committee comprising 10-15 people whose efforts are making a major contribution to landcare in South Australia. A member of the SMC sits on each sub-committee as a liaison person.

The sub-committees meet frequently and plan and carry out specific projects as well as linking into existing networks of community groups. They also interact with each other and are often able to offer assistance in certain cases - joint projects are often developed.

The SMC delegates the ongoing preparation and research of relevant issues to a WORKING GROUP which meets weekly. This group includes the SMC Chairperson, the executive officer, and media relations officer, plus a number of officers of the Soil and Water Conservation Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture, which kindly provides space and clerical assistance for this Landcare Unit.

A South Australian logo was produced and was used until the national landcare logo had been developed, after which the S.A. logo was integrated into the national logo, a pair of hands which cradle and form the shape of Australia. Stickers have been produced for use on correspondence, cars, etc.

A brief descriptive brochure was produced for wide distribution throughout the community.

A consultancy was let for the production of appropriate displays about soil conservation and landcare for use on field days, seminars, conferences and other appropriate occasions.

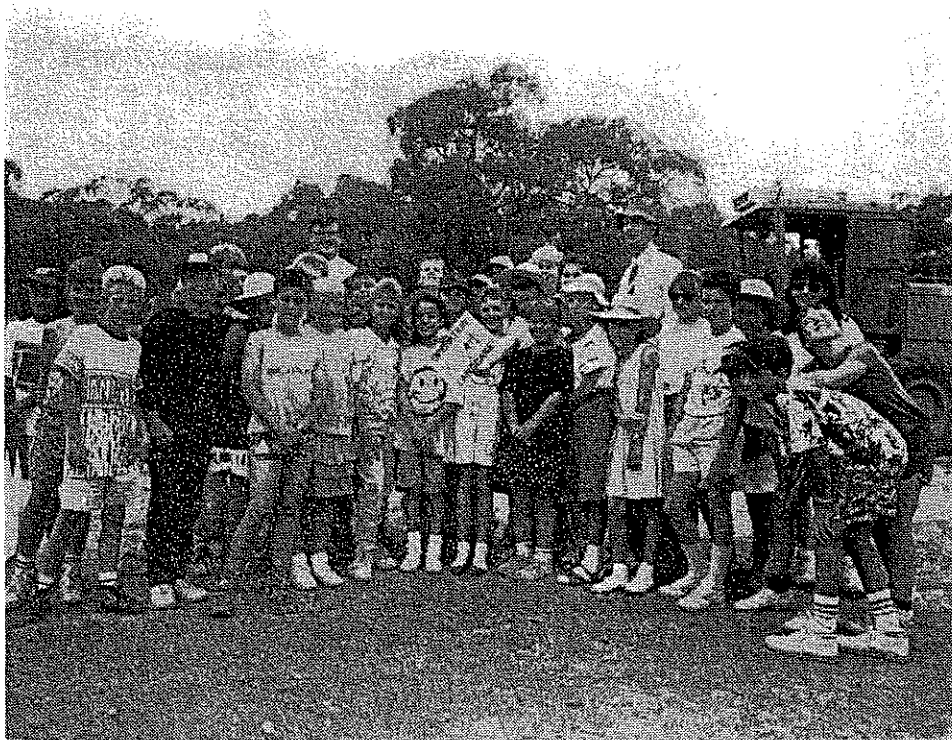
### LAUNCH OF THE YEAR OF LANDCARE

The 1990 Year of Landcare was launched by the Hon. Lynn Arnold, Minister of Agriculture, on Monday, 26 February 1990, at Cobbler Creek, a 288 hectare recreation park in the north eastern suburbs of Adelaide, purchased by the State Government in 1988. The park has some severe erosion problems which clearly illustrate the need for a landcare program.





Display material linking Landcare to Food and Clothing



The Minister and Director General of Agriculture with School Children at the Launch of "Operation Landcare"

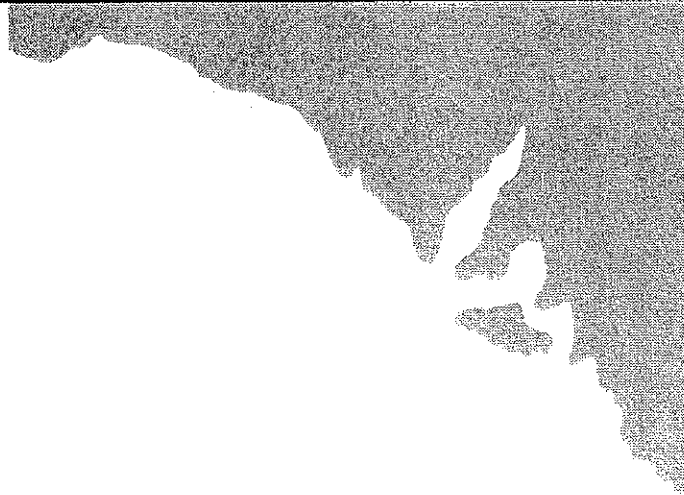




---

• KIDS FOR •  
LANDCARE

---



## KIDS FOR LANDCARE

This excellent project was developed within the Dept. of Education in liaison with the education sub-committee of the SMC with assistance of the Department of Agriculture and NSCP with the help of a specially employed officer. A teacher guide and kit has been produced which was launched by the Premier of South Australia at the Black Forest Primary School on World Environment Day, 5 June 1990. An excellent series of four posters was also produced by two Year 11 students of Para Hills High School which trace the history of the Australian land and human impact upon it. A fifth poster was used as the basis of a competition for all school children to design their hope for the future of our land.



**The Premier launching "Kids for Landcare" at Blackforest Primary School.**

## PROJECTS

The SMC does not attempt to 'manage' any of the planned projects, but simply to coordinate or facilitate activities. To this end the monthly newsletter contained a calendar of events, as well as news about some of the many diverse projects, seminars, meetings, field days, etc. which took place during the Year of Landcare. Distribution of the newsletter is facilitated through branches of the State Bank of South Australia. The newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

'Guidelines for Participation' of people and groups were prepared and distributed to the nine Landcare Officers who have been appointed by the Dept. of Agriculture to assist landholders across the whole of South Australia to plan landcare projects and to begin to develop farm and district plans.

A Registration Form was prepared by the Working group for the guidance of landcare groups and individuals who wish to seek endorsement of their project or event by the SMC.

A Personal Action Guide for Landcare was prepared for wide distribution, particularly to urban people, to illustrate what action can be taken in their own backyard, or/and in suburban open space areas.

A handbook "Dealing with the News Media" was produced by the Communications and Promotion sub-committee to assist community landcare groups in seeking publicity for their projects, publicising seminars, workshops etc.

An innovative proposal is in the process of development to set up a major urban landcare demonstration project with the cooperation of Local Government, the Education Dept., the E and W.S. Dept., CSIRO, Dept. of Mines and Energy, and interested private sector groups. The major focus will become an outdoor "classroom" for many school children to help them understand the importance of soil conservation and landcare. It would also be easily accessible to the wider urban community,

Close liaison is developing with a number of groups through the sub-committee system including the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Trees for Life, Greening Australia, the Conservation Council of S.A., Communities of Common Concern, and Life. Be in it.

## SMC ACTIVITIES

The Chairperson and a number of members of the SMC have accepted many opportunities to speak at seminars, workshops and conferences e.g. Agricultural Bureaux seminars, AG-EXPO, the Institute of Agricultural Science, Local Government functions, the Cleve Field Days, conservation groups, and service groups as well as attending the Fifth Australian Soil Conservation Conference in Perth, W.A., in March 1990.

The Chairperson attended the launch in Canberra, and the inaugural (Feb. 1990) and subsequent Board meetings of Landcare Australia Ltd. in Sydney.

Articles describing Operation Landcare were published in various journals of industry and community organisations.

## LANDCARE AWARDS

Following the initiative of Landcare Australia Ltd. to offer National Landcare Awards in the 1990 Year of Landcare, the SMC agreed to carry out this Award programme in South Australia in a number of categories, the winners of which would be nominated for the National Awards. Due to constraints of time it was agreed that the Commonwealth Development Bank IBIS Award winner for conservation farming in SA would be nominated for the National Landcare Individual (Primary Producer) category. There were seven other categories: Landcare Individual (non-primary producer), Community Landcare Group, Research, Media, Business, Education, and Local Govt.

The Award competition was launched in South Australia by the Governor-General, the Hon Bill Hayden AC, during his visit to the Clare District (in July) to inspect community landcare programmes being carried out by local people with advice from CSIRO and the Dept. of Agriculture.

Awards were presented to the South Australian category winners by Ian McNamara of "Australia All Over" fame, the ABC Australia-wide radio programme. Each winner received a certificate signed by the Governor of South Australia and \$1000 prize money for their project. Certificates were subsequently sent to all 73 entrants in these Awards. South Australia had the greatest number of entrants of all the States. State winners go to Canberra in March 1991 for the announcement of the National winners at a function at Parliament House in the presence of the Governor-General and the Prime Minister.

Winner of the Kids-for-Landcare school poster competition were also announced and received their awards.

On the evening preceding the AAO radio Programme, 'Macca' and his Gumboot band staged a Landcare Concert in the Thebarton Theatre which was attended by more than 1200 enthusiastic people of all ages.



### Landcare Awards

K Coventry  
Local Government  
Winner

A Sutherland  
Landcare  
Individual

B Hardy  
Chairperson  
SMC

K Jaeschke  
Landcare  
Group

B Mason  
Primary  
Producer

### The First Anniversary Meeting of the SMC

The eleventh meeting of the SMC was the first anniversary of the establishment of the Committee. A small celebration was attended by the Patron Lt Gen Sir Donald Dundstan KBE CB, Governor of South Australia, the Hon Lynn Arnold MP, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr Jim Kirk, Chairman of Landcare Australia Ltd. after the formal meeting. Chairpersons of the seven sub-committees made brief reports for the information of the official guests, and refreshments were enjoyed.

### Executive Officer's Remuneration (Landcare Coordinator)

There has been considerable concern about provision of the Landcare Coordinators salary after 30 June 1990. Prior to this date this position and that of the Media Relations Officer, were provided by NSCP funding as a specific project. However, after this date the source of the necessary funds was uncertain. Fortunately, it appears that the importance of these two positions for the continuing success of the Decade of Landcare programme, was recognised, and it is understood that these positions will be maintained with support of the NSCP and the Department of Agriculture.

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

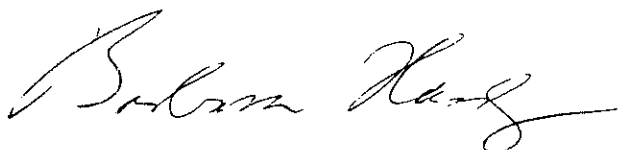
In October 1990 a discussion paper was presented to the SMC by the Working Party setting out a proposed Work Programme suggested for the next three years, which was approved.

To continue to seek urban support and rural community action, it is proposed that Operation Landcare focus on one or two issues as the main items for parallel action with existing projects and activities. For example, in 1991 the focus in the urban community will be on Park care, trees, and developing a seedbank; in the rural community it will be on salinity, property planning, and conservation farming; while the urban-rural link will be promoted by highlighting the production of food from healthy soil, and involvement State-wide in the Life. Be in it programme, the theme of which is Environment this year. March will be Landcare Month, and the slogan is "Every Little Bit Helps".

1992 and 1993 will address care of streams through local government, coastal management, the relationship of clothing and building materials with the land, erosion control, acidity, and related issues.

A follow-up paper on the operational aspects of the SMC, the Landcare Executive Committee, sub-committees and the working group is to be discussed early in 1991.

The SMC looks forward to a busy and important year in 1991 - the beginning of the Decade of Landcare - even though the economic situation in the rural community is generally very worrying. It will be very important to keep the momentum and enthusiasm of 1990's successful Year of Landcare rolling along. Landcare must not become a casualty of the economic downturn.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara Hardy', written in dark ink.

Barbara Hardy  
Chairperson  
State Management Committee  
Decade of Landcare

26.1.91