



Landcare in Lake Macquarie



What is Landcare?

Landcare is a volunteer movement that harnesses individuals and groups under the ethic of caring for the land. Landcare is supported by all three levels of government and the corporate sector in partnership with the community.

Landcare became a National movement in 1989 with the establishment of Landcare Australia, although Landcare, Dunecare and Bushcare groups have been tackling local environmental issues since the 1950s.

In Lake Macquarie, Landcare mostly occurs on public land, generally in and around developed areas and is sometimes referred to as 'Urban Landcare'. Urban Landcare seeks to restore, rehabilitate and conserve the natural environment in such places as bushland reserves, parks, foreshores, estuaries, wetlands, creeks and coastal areas on Council and Crown land.



Landcare helps protect our waterways and biodiversity

This region, like many others, is suffering from the effects of urban developments. This leads to pollution, erosion, sedimentation, increased nutrients in our waterways and reduced habitat for wildlife.

Landcare groups are helping address these issues by rehabilitating creeks and drainage lines to help filter urban runoff and by removing weeds and replanting local native plants to help provide wildlife habitat.



Who are Landcarers?

Landcarers come from all walks of life and include retirees, school students, members of the workforce and families. Most are local residents who are interested in their patch of bush, creek or foreshore. These committed and dedicated volunteers benefit from forming groups to work on local projects, often involving weed removal, erosion control and replanting. Their actions encourage the local community to develop an awareness of environmental issues and to value our natural assets.

You don't need special skills or abilities to become a Landcarer. Training is provided and there are a range of ways people can help out such as planting, weeding, fundraising, office work, record keeping and making cups of teas for groups!

One thing Landcarers all have in common is a passion for seeing our natural environment managed so that it will be there to benefit future generations.



Acknowledgement of the first Landcarers

Lake Macquarie Landcare acknowledges the traditional owners of the land that we care for, the Awabakal people.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future and in particular, we remember and respect the Ancestors who cared for and nurtured this Country as the original Landcarers.



A Successful Structure

Landcare activities in Lake Macquarie are guided and supported through a partnership between volunteers, Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network Incorporated and Lake Macquarie City Council.

Volunteers

Volunteers in almost 200 Landcare groups contribute to on-ground works across Lake Macquarie. Some also attend meetings, provide representation through the Landcare Network, and monitor and convey vital information about projects and issues.

Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network Incorporated

The Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network is the collective voice of almost 200 groups, ensuring that Landcare continues to be grassroots driven. The Network provides a structure for community input into the management of Lake Macquarie Landcare and associated issues such as insurance, development of policy, business of the Network and governance.

Lake Macquarie City Council

Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) provides a vast array of support and mechanisms that ensure appropriate management of natural areas, resources, staff and volunteers.

Partnerships with other organisations

Lake Macquarie Landcare works in partnership with other organisations including community groups, Aboriginal Land Councils, companies and state and federal Government agencies to deliver grant projects and other programs aimed to restore our natural environment.



Landcare & Sustainable Living Centre

The Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre, umali barai-ku provides a resource centre for Landcare in the Lake Macquarie area. It makes available a place for the broader community to access information regarding Landcare while providing resources for volunteers.

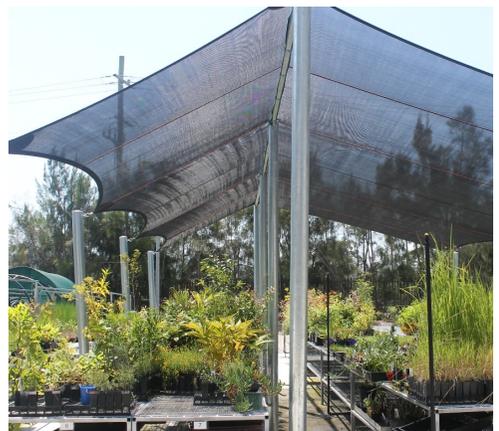


For the community the Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre provides:

- Advice and assistance to form a Landcare group
- Resource library
- Field days and workshops
- Volunteering opportunities
- Plant sales (limited times) and information

For registered Landcare groups the following can be arranged through the centre:

- Green Team and Bush Regeneration Team
- Plants and mulch
- Tool loans
- Office, meeting and kitchen facilities
- Site visits and advice



Support for New Groups

To ensure projects are implemented to a high standard and in a safe and appropriate manner, Lake Macquarie Landcare provides the following training, plans and resources for new Landcare groups:

Team Leader Training

Each group is required to nominate at least one Team Leader to be trained at half day workshop or through an online course that covers:

- Health and Safety on Landcare sites
- Environmental impacts of Landcare
- Site induction and risk assessment procedures
- Herbicide awareness
- Safe use of tools and equipment

Folder of resources

A Team Leader folder and kit is provided to each new group, containing resources to cover all Landcare issues including:

- Legislation and standards that apply to Landcare sites
- Fact sheets relating to natural resource management issues
- Risk assessment, work method statements and record keeping forms
- Basic first aid and safety supplies



Agreed Action Plans

Based on an initial site assessment by suitably qualified staff, these plans are a written agreement between the landholder/ land manager and the Landcare group and include:

- Identification of the site values and the threats to those values
- Useable action plans that employ current best practice methods
- An appropriate timetable for site works that protects habitat values and minimises site degradation
- Agreed decisions on the most appropriate strategies for the site considering the needs of all stakeholders

The combination of these systems ensure that:

- Projects are implemented appropriately and safely
- Volunteers are kept abreast of best practice
- Effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting occurs
- Projects are developed and planned appropriately
- Resources are available for projects
- External funding and sponsorship is able to be obtained



Further Information

General information relating to Landcare can be obtained from the following web links:

Lake Macquarie Landcare www.lakemacquarielandcare.org.au

Lake Macquarie City Council www.lakemac.com.au

Landcare Australia www.landcareaustralia.org.au

Landcare NSW www.landcarensw.org.au

Hunter Region Landcare Network www.hunterlandcare.org.au



For further information regarding Landcare sites or how to join or support Landcare in Lake Macquarie please contact Lake Macquarie Landcare.

Lake Macquarie Landcare

Cnr Toronto & Five Islands Rds Booragul NSW 2284
Box 1906 HRMC NSW 2310

Phone: 4921 0392

Email: lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

www.lakemacquarielandcare.org.au

Monday to Friday

8am - 4pm

