

**RICHMOND LANDCARE INC., in partnership with the NORTHERN RIVERS
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

Richmond Landcare Inc., (RLI) was incorporated in 1998 as a “not for profit” Landcare Umbrella Network. Our membership comprises 38 Landcare Groups in the Richmond Catchment, of which 11 Member Groups are “farmer related landcare groups”. The other 27 Member Groups comprise Dunecare, Landcare and Bushcare activities. Our membership has grown from 24 groups to 38 groups over the past five years. These 38 groups represent several hundred individual members.

RLI has an excellent ongoing relationship with the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA). Our first project with the NRCMA was the Richmond Community Support Officers Contract. Subsequent projects are the National Landcare Program (NLP) funded Community Landcare Coordinators contract and related National Landcare Program contracts.

These NLP contracts are funded through the NRCMA and include partnerships with NSW DPI, TAFE, Australian Macadamia Society, RLI Member Groups and others.

Some of our current NRCMA/NLP funded RLI partnership projects are:

PestWeb---a computer/GPS/IPM based horticulture partnership pest reporting system.
Soils---a partnership with TAFE for the Richmond/Clarence/Macleay/Hastings region.
Dairy Composting---a partnership with NSW DPI and Sub Tropical Dairy Industry
Cudgen BMP---a partnership with NSW DPI and Tweed Valley sweet potato growers.
Prograze Workshops---a partnership with NSW DPI.
Towards Sustainable Agriculture-Richmond Floodplain---a partnership with NSW DPI.

We attribute our success to the network of partnerships that RLI has developed with government and non government bodies. The old days of “going it alone” with funding requests are limited. Technology is rapidly changing as is our society, and whether we like it or not, landcare groups/networks must adapt to these changes if they wish to remain viable. Partnerships for funding are foremost amongst these changes.

RLI also assists Member Groups with direct grants from the NRCMA, for example riparian fencing to exclude livestock from waterways. Other non NRCMA grants are sponsored for Member Groups such as Landcare Australia Limited grants and Envirofund Grants. Since 2004, RLI has managed more than 30 separate grants of which more than half were sourced through the NRCMA.

Also of importance is the expertise of our Committee of Management and their proactive approach to initiating projects and building partnerships. Our Committee of Management consists of 8 volunteers, each representing a Member Group of RLI.

Committee members represent the following group categories: Community landcare and dunecare, horticulture and forestry based landcare, dairy farmer based landcare and beef cattle based landcare.

They have had extensive experience in education, secretarial, banking, auctioneering, finance and corporate management in Australia and overseas as expatriates. Their combined “landcare years” exceed seventy.

A visit to the RLI website www.richmondlandcare.org will give more detail of our network, members and projects.

The RLI Committee of Management will be happy to share their NRCMA experience with other landcare related groups. Interested groups may contact RLI by email at landcare@nor.com.au or by phone 0427 485910 or by fax 02 66283310 or by mail at P.O. Box 525, Alstonville 2477.



Members of Richmond Landcare Inc outside the Network's booth at the Primex Exhibition, Casino