



February 2026 Newsletter

Produced by The Lismore Land Protection Group Inc.

Lismore Land Protection Group, Weering-Eurack Landcare Group, Leslie Manor Landcare Group, Cundare-Duverney Landcare Group, Weerite Landcare Group & Mt Elephant Community Management.

The Corangamite Lakes Landcare Area is on Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Country. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

G'day Land carers,

Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the recent fires. We know these events have had a significant impact on many people across Victoria, including members of our own community.

Landcare isn't just about planting trees; it's about people and community. In the wake of the recent fires, we want to be a place where people can come together, connect, and support one another. If you'd like to see more social catchups, dinners, community BBQs or informal gatherings, please get in touch. We're here to help strengthen connections when they matter most.

The Leslie Manor Landcare group are hoping to organise a community BBQ soon as a thank you to everyone who helped. So please stay tuned and come along.

Bushfire Recovery Support - Information & Next Steps

Support is available for landholders and community members impacted by the January 2026 bushfires. Below is a summary of key resources and assistance currently available:

- **Emergency Recovery Victoria**
Visit Emergency Recovery Victoria for information on financial and practical support for people affected by the January 2026 Victorian bushfires.
https://emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/#help_for_farmers_january_2026_fires
- **Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) - Victoria West**
Free and confidential counselling for farmers and small business owners, including help with insurance claims,

accessing grants, working with banks and lenders, reducing financial stress and wellbeing support.

☎ 1300 735 578

- **Primary Producer Recovery Grants (Rural Finance)**

Grants of up to **\$75,000** are available to support clean-up and reinstatement of primary production enterprises directly impacted by the fires. Applications are now open and close at **4pm on 21 October 2026**.

<https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/>
(RFCS can help you through this)

- **Tree assessments**

Oz Trees, together with Sarah, are planning to undertake tree assessments to help landholders understand fire damage and recovery potential in plantations.

- **Pasture assessments**

Southern Farming Systems (SFS) are offering pasture assessments for their members only. A future webinar or workshop may also be available.

- **Further information**

Practical guidance on pasture recovery after fire is available via Agriculture Victoria:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires/what-to-do-after-a-bushfire/pasture-recovery-after-fire>

If you need help navigating these supports or would like more information, please get in touch.

2026 Tree Planting Program and Fencing Rebate - Tree Planting Support

Orders are now open for the 2026 Tree Planting Program, including the new Fencing Rebate to support eligible plantings. To ensure the process is fair and manageable, strict guidelines apply to the fencing rebate, and all applications must be submitted on time.

 **Application deadline:** 30 April 2026

 **Important:** No order form = no trees and no fencing rebate.

If you're planning to plant in 2026, please get in touch with Sarah to request an order form and read the details carefully before submitting. Early applications are encouraged to avoid missing out.




Job Opportunity: Part-Time Landcare Facilitator (12-Month Maternity Leave Position)

The Landcare Facilitator job advertisement has been live over recent weeks and is now closing soon. The committee will begin assessing applications shortly and will work through the selection process. We'll keep members updated and share any news or changes as they come.

Grounded Farming Festival - Update

Grounded is a world-class farming festival – a cross between a roaming farming conference, field days and a food festival, featuring multiple talks, demonstrations, food vans, a bar and plenty of opportunities for social connection.

 **22-23 April 2026**

 Find out more:

<https://groundedaustralia.com.au/>

Our thoughts are with everyone across Victoria facing extreme heat and the ongoing threat of fire. We know this is an incredibly difficult time for many people and communities, and that attention and energy need to remain where they matter most.

With this in mind, early bird pricing and the Corangamite CMA community offer have been extended by two weeks.

We also want to remind everyone that **free GROUNDED tickets are available for anyone directly affected by the fires**, now or in the coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to reach out if this support would be helpful.



LLPG meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month. If you'd like a topic raised at a meeting, contact Sarah or a committee member by the Tuesday prior. Sarah is working part time - Mon/Thu/Fri (am)

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