



GYMPIE & DISTRICT LANDCARE GROUP INC.

A.B.N. 19 435 450 683

Cnr Groves Road & Old Maryborough Road
Gympie QLD 4570
P: (07)5483 8866
W: www.gympielandcare.org.au

Author: Maree Gillott
Email: president@gympielandcare.org.au
mg:ls

Re: President's Report

2020 was certainly a year we will all remember (no matter how much we would like to forget it). For our organisation, it has presented a variety of challenges which we have and are continuing to meet.

While it was good news that our turnover during COVID did not fall to the point where we qualified for JobKeeper, the public health challenges posed by the pandemic meant we had to send our volunteers home, suspend Junior Landcare, and all our other education programmes, much to the dismay of those who had worked so hard to bring quality programmes to the public. However, thanks to tight financial management, our organisation came through the pandemic pretty well.

Having successfully negotiated one significant challenge, Murphy's Law decreed that another challenge should immediately present itself, this time in the form of the Council Envirolevy grants programme. Gympie & District Landcare, together with other not-for-profit organisations have been for many years, annual recipients of significant amounts of funding from Gympie Regional Council for environmental projects on Council land. Because of grants made in previous years, we and other organisations receiving grants have been able to do great environmental work around the region. That all changed this year.

After the various organisations applied for funding in the usual way, Gympie Council came to the realisation that the process they had been adopting in relation to assessment and issuing of the grants was not in accordance with their own policy documents. Our organisation was naturally most disappointed to learn, after many months of waiting, that much of the revegetation and weed management work we had been planning to do with the assistance of the Envirolevy grants, could not be approved given current Council policy guidelines.

This is still an unfolding situation, and one which we are looking to address in a variety of ways.

Please understand though, our view is that Council was entirely correct in taking action to identify and address the problem – although we may have some issue with the time taken to work through the problem and notify all the organisations of the outcome.

What it does highlight for us is the on-point nature of our current strategic plan, which has as one of its key targets, a reduction in reliance on grant income to fund the operations of the organisation.



Gympie & District Landcare Group is Registered with the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission.

To that end, we're looking to ensure that into the future, Gympie Landcare has a number of income streams, from nursery and wholesale plant sales, an expanded Bio-Control offering, to private environmental work. Of course, we still apply for grants wherever they come up, but they cannot be relied upon as the major source of income.

So, while 2021 looks to be another year of challenge, we believe we have the partners, people, the ideas, the resources, and the determination to make it a great one.

Maree Gillott

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maree Gillott', written in a cursive style.

President