



2004 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS
SENSIS LANDCARE CATCHMENT AWARD

Woody Yaloak Catchment Group
Victoria



ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2004

Features a report of the Western
Australian Salinity Study Tour



australia's aluminium
since 1963



australia's aluminium
since 1963



The desired outcome of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project:

- Viable businesses
- A strong community capable of managing change
- A natural environment that nurtures business viability which works within the capacity of the catchment
- Protection of remaining natural flora and fauna.



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- NAP
- Bestwool 2010
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1 Chairman's Report



The Woody Yaloak Catchment Project is going from strength to strength despite what has been an incredibly busy and in some cases turbulent year.

We started off with the cloud of the toxic waste facility over the heads of many in the catchment. Thankfully the State Government withdrew the short-listing of the Pittong site after a six-month battle. Despite the relief felt by all, I'm still very angry about the way the process unfolded, the unnecessary stress it placed on our community and the lengths the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group (and many other groups in the community) had to go to have the decision reversed. It was an appalling process and we are still fighting to have our expenses for the information we began to assembled at the request of Major Projects Victoria paid for.

However, out of this episode two features of our evolution as a catchment project were highlighted. Firstly, all the research that we have invested in over the past decade paid dividends. The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group knew infinitely more about the shortcomings of the proposed sites than the consultants and could argue this on technical grounds. Knowledge is power.

Secondly it highlighted the importance of good relationships. We called on experts to help us and they obliged without hesitation. A huge thanks must go to geologists Peter Dahlhaus and Phil Kinghorn, as well as Colin Bullen and Les Whetter at Imerys Minerals Australia for the highly valuable information they provided.

In contrast, the 10 year anniversary celebration was a huge success and gave some relief to the stresses of the toxic waste issue. Ken and Dianne McBeath's bush block was the perfect setting for all involved in Woody to reflect on just how far we have travelled. From humble beginnings in the early 1990's, Woody Yaloak is now seen Australia wide as a leader in integrated catchment management. The visit of United

States Deputy Secretary for Agriculture Dr Jim Mosely to find out how production and conservation can be successfully combined and the winning of the National Landcare Award in September is recognition for 10 years dedication and hard work. Congratulations to all involved.

The 2004 year also marks more than a decade of unbroken sponsorship by Alcoa to the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project. Alcoa's direct support to Woody Yaloak now totals \$850,000. When you combine this with the valuable advice and guidance given by Alcoa staff over the decade, and now being provided Paul Hallam and Joan McGovern, Woody Yaloak is in a very fortunate position. Sadly for us Joan is moving on and we thank her for her efforts, wish her luck at Shell and welcome Kylie Cirak into her new role at Alcoa. We are looking forward to the next ten years together!

Meanwhile the real work goes on. Woody Yaloak had a record year in the amount of works undertaken and the funds we were able to attract. The ability to offer a new pasture grazing program no doubt helped, but the plans for significant investment in salinity control over the next few years along with the ongoing revegetation, weed control and waterway management activities should see Woody Yaloak lift to new heights. Jen Clarke has once again done a sterling job at keeping the neighborhood group process growing and I congratulate all landholders that are making changes on their farms.

Funding is always a challenge and 2004 has been no different. Our relationship with the Corangamite CMA is bearing fruit with significant resources coming from Federal programs such as the National Landcare Program, Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality. The CCMA must recommend these projects to Canberra for us to get funding. We thank them for the trust placed in us to deliver natural resource management outcomes.

We also attracted additional smaller sponsorship from Bundaberg Rum, Dow AgroSciences, Golden Plains Shire, Department of Primary Industries, Hifert, Landmark, Berringer Blass Wines and the Department of State and Regional Development.

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group has also applied to become a tax-deductible organisation, allowing us to offer tax deductibility for donations from philanthropic trusts and private individuals. We have established the Woody Yaloak Catchment Improvement Trust and are awaiting final approval from the Federal Government. This will provide another means of reducing the reliance on a limited number of funding sources and allow greater scope in what we can support. Thanks to Pam Oddie for seeing this task through.

With sponsorship comes accountability and I am becoming increasingly concerned about the level and frequency of reporting now being attached to funding support, especially with Federal Government programmes. While some accountability is obviously needed, with many funding sources we risk collapsing under the weight of paperwork, providing excessive detail that may never be used for program improvement.

Cam Nicholson has been managing the funding and the reporting procedures, and I congratulate him on a thankless task. Cam is an invaluable asset to Woody. He is a very skilled negotiator and has had much experience dealing with various government departments as well as corporations. He has an acute understanding of the Woody catchment gained over the last 11 years. We are particularly grateful to Cam for the time, effort and skills he gave the community during the toxic waste issue, which certainly had an impact on the successful outcome. Well done Cam.

We are also pursuing two issues that have become sore points for many in the catchment. The first is waterways crossings and we must find a simpler, less

bureaucratic way of getting approvals for these structures. Discussions are currently underway with the CCMA to improve this. The second is getting public land managers to take responsibility for their patch. Late this year we established a way where neighbourhood groups can invite public land managers to be part of the planning and funding process. These public land managers are treated the same as anyone else. They need to join the local landcare group, pay their levy, develop a five year plan and join with neighbours to commit to each year's works at a planning meeting. In return Woody will seek funding for their activity in the same way we do for all other landholders. It will be interesting to see how it goes!

Other highlights include our website, which has recorded more than 1100 hits since coming on line in April, continued success with Landscapes for the Future and the Western Australia salinity study tour (a report is provided in this document).

As always our appreciation must be extended to the executive committee members for their friendship and efforts and to our staff of Cam Nicholson, Jen Clarke, Troy Missen, Suzie Ellis, Justin Liddy and Pam Oddie who have done a wonderful job. Special thanks to Rick Pope and Tony Wilson for their website development and maintenance, Jo Curkpatrick and Melanie Veering at SPAN communication who helped with media, website content and the 10 year anniversary booklet and the interest shown by ABC radio.

I see 2005 as a year of consolidation, to deliver on the investment from our funding partners and take the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project to new levels in Natural Resource Management.

Michael Rowe
Chairman.

2 Our Partners' commitment to Natural Resource Management

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) was established in 1997 (one of ten in the State) by the Victorian Government to ensure the protection and sustainable development of land, vegetation and water resources within a boundary stretching from Geelong to Ballarat and along the coast to Peterborough.

The aim of the Authority is to provide an environment that facilitates a community based approach to the integrated management of our catchment.

With its many partnerships the Authority implements major programs dealing with catchment and river management.

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is responsible for the co-ordination and prioritising of projects under the Australian and State Government initiative "National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality", the Natural Heritage Trust 2 Program and the National Landcare Program as well as coordinating and implementing many Victorian Government funded projects.

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group is an important group within the Corangamite Region because of its ability to enrol people into implementing natural resource management outcomes. The group continues to be a leader in its brokerage and partnership role, supporting its members with technical advice and resources. The Authority's confidence in the governance and capacity of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group to deliver natural resource management outcomes is reflected in the recent three year funding we have entered into with the Group, agreement to deliver salinity outcomes in the catchment and the level of Federal Government investment. In 2004 more than 80 per cent of all money received by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project came from the CCMA or via Federal programs administered by the Authority.

The Authority would also like to acknowledge the important role that the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group play with leading innovation and sharing their learnings with other community catchment groups both within and external to the region. The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group fosters partnerships and the Authority is one such partner.

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority congratulate the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group for winning the National Landcare Catchment Award, the success of their 10 year anniversary celebration and their continual efforts to improve administrative procedures that may be impeding our ability to deliver improvements in catchment management.

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority looks forward to continuing to support and work with the Woody Yaloak Group to assist in providing a healthy environment that has positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Alcoa World Alumina Australia – Environmental Partnerships

Alcoa World Alumina Australia has committed more than \$20 million to helping communities with their environmental and landcare activities. Although principally targeted at addressing environmental issues, Alcoa's support has been instrumental in forging strong working relationships between industry, government and individuals in the community. Alcoa's belief in the need for stronger communities underpins the company's enduring commitment to sustainability and sustainable development

One of Alcoa's strongest and most successful partnerships is the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group. Since 1993 Alcoa has supported the catchment's "on ground" works, with a key focus on enabling Woody Yaloak to share with others their vast knowledge and experience. The catchment's innovative activities have been passed on to other

Landcare groups strengthening the Landcare movement nation wide.

Alcoa sees the Woody Yaloak Catchment project as an excellent example of what can be achieved through collaboration. Its achievements demonstrate the value of partnerships between industry, government and the community.

Alcoa congratulates the Woody Yaloak Group in its continued innovative and dedicated approach to protecting the natural resources of the Woody Yaloak Catchment and wish the group every success in future years.

3 2004 in Review

Project applications received from neighbourhood groups in 2004 were more than double the previous year. This was mainly due to the launch of a new pasture program in mid 2004. Four new neighbourhood groups also formed in 2004.

The review of 2004 is described in six parts. These are:

- Commitment by landholders to undertake new works in the next 12 months
- Works that were claimed by landholders in 2004
- Staffing to support planning and implementation

- Revenue to match the proposed works
- Major activities undertaken by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project in 2004
- Other highlights

3.1 Commitment by landholders to new works

Eighteen neighbourhood groups committed to new works in 2004. A summary of the works to be undertaken is listed (Table 1).

Table 1 – Works planned in 2004 (compared to 2003)

Activity	Quantity in 2004	Change from 2003	Total Project Expenditure ¹
Creek crossing	1 crossing	- 1 crossing	\$ 3,400
Earthworks — wetland	12 hrs	+ 12 hrs	\$ 900
Erosion control — earthworks	12 hrs	- 222 hrs	\$ 900
Fencing			
Landscape (shelterbelts)	20.9km	-16.5km	\$ 60,749
Remnants	1.7km	+1.2km	\$ 5,114
Saline areas	1.0km	+1.0km	\$ 4,475
Waterways	9.8km	-0.5km	\$ 28,873
Wetlands	0.7km	+0.7km	\$ 2,235
TOTAL FENCING			\$ 101,446
Pastures			
Fertiliser/lime/gypsum	690.6ha	+690.6ha	\$ 72,559
Herbicide manipulation	1190.5ha	+1190.5ha	\$ 41,230
Seed (pasture, lucerne)	524.5ha	+524.5ha	\$ 73,816
Seed (saline areas)	26ha	+26ha	\$ 54,432
Subdivisional fencing	9.6km	+9.6km	\$ 29,521
Watering points (paddock)	9 troughs	+9 troughs	\$ 31,388
Watering points (off stream)	6 troughs	+6 troughs	\$ 9,184
TOTAL PASTURES			\$ 312,130
Rabbit ripping	11hrs	+11hrs	\$ 1,165
Trees			
Landscape (shelter belts)	38,193 tubestock	-8341 tubestock	\$ 63,193
7.4km direct seeding		-9.4km direct seeding	\$ 1,320
Trees (salinity recharge)	1225 tubestock	+1225 tubestock	\$ 1,550
Watercourses	17,160 tubestock	+8443 tubestock	\$ 32,091
0km direct seeding		-5.2km direct seeding	\$ -
Wetlands	450 tubestock	+450 tubestock	\$ 995
Total tubestock	57,028 tubestock	+1777 tubestock	\$ 97,829
Total direct seeding	7.4km direct seeding	-14.6km direct seeding	\$ 1,320
TOTAL TREES			\$ 99,149
Weed control			
Mechanical/cultivation	757hrs	+694hrs	\$ 43,617
Herbicides	73 litres	-173 litres	\$ 6,270
TOTAL WEEDS			\$ 49,887
GRAND TOTAL			\$ 568,977

¹ Includes grant allocation, landholder cash and 'in kind' contribution.

Total revegetation activities were similar to 2003, although greater investment occurred on waterways, wetlands, remnant vegetation and for salinity control. Investment in landscape revegetation (shelterbelts) dropped by 22% compared to 2003. There was a noticeable decrease in direct seeding in 2004.

The introduction of the accelerated grazing systems project was very well received, with most landholders registering an interest in the program. Pasture activities that were assessed and approved by December 2004 totalled \$312,000, with many more farms still awaiting assessment.

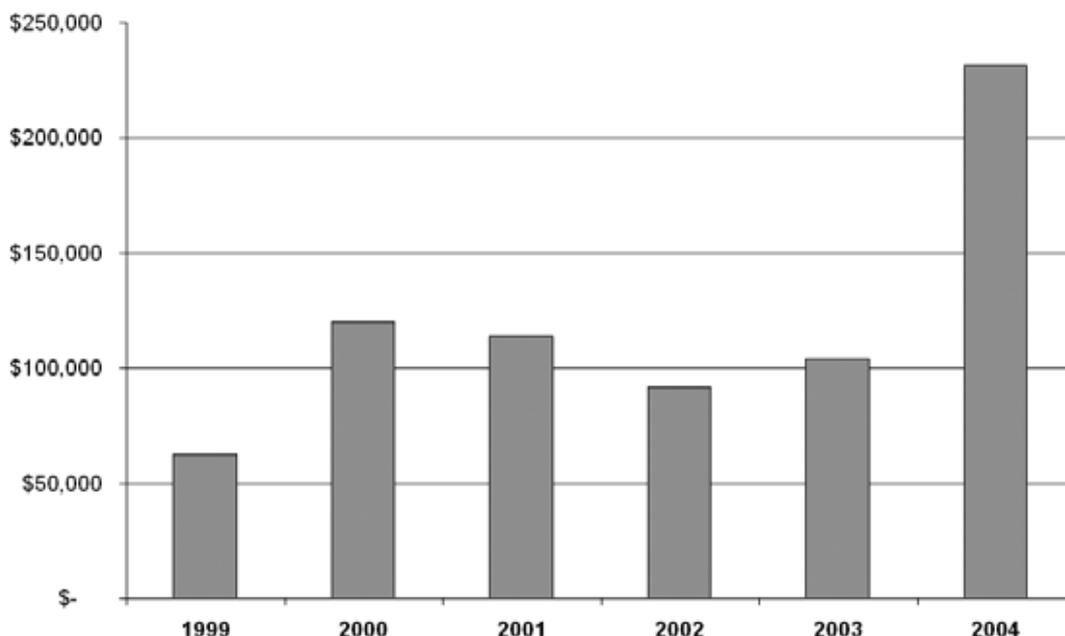
The four new neighbourhood groups to form in 2004 were located in the upper reaches of the catchment. These groups have a significant gorse problem and the increased investment in weed control in 2004 to \$49,887 (up 115%) can be attributed to commitments by these groups. The formation of these groups has encouraged many landholders to join landcare for the first time.

The total financial commitment for these works, including landholder input was calculated at \$569,000. This is an increase on 2003 of \$267,000 or 88% and is the highest single commitment for works since the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project began in 1993. Funding to neighbourhood group projects since 1999 has exceeded \$720,000 and has been matched by \$1.49 million in landholder investment.

Landholder cash and in-kind (labour) investment decreased slightly from 66% of the total project cost in 2003 to 60% in 2004. This decrease is partly due to re-instating the 75% material cost subsidies for revegetation projects, which were reduced to 50% reimbursement in 2003 because of funding limitations.

There was a significant increase in the level of activity in 2004 compared to previous years, with funding of \$231,654 committed to neighbourhood group projects by landholders. This is more than double the \$104,192 committed in 2003 and is in contrast to the historic annual investment since the neighbourhood group process began in 1999 (figure 1).

Figure 1. Investment in NHG's.



3.2 Works completed and claimed by landholders

Works completed and re-imbursed by the Woody Yaloak catchment project in 2004 amounted to \$88,621.12. This was a \$4,721.53 decrease on the previous year. Claims made by landholders were 11.3% under budget.

Forty six landholders made claims for works completed (appendix 1). More than half of these landholders had not made a claim in 2003 and in the past six years 120 different landholders have been re-imbursed for works undertaken through the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project.

3.3 Support staff

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Project use the services of six people to help support the project. All are engaged on a part-time basis, with two operating as employees and four as contractors. Total employment

in 2003 was equivalent to approximately 1.25 full time people (Table 2).

3.4 Revenue

Funding received and banked for on ground works, support staff, publicity / communication and other initiatives totalled \$419,074.42 (excl GST). This does not include a further \$135,000 (excl GST) in invoices that have been raised but the money not received yet. This combined revenue is 132 % higher than 2003. There are several reasons for this increase:

- The signing of additional funding agreements to target salinity in the Pittong, Illabarook and Mt Mercer areas.
- Sponsorship for the 10 year anniversary celebration.
- Investment from additional private sponsors.

Table 2 – People employed by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project (2004)

Name	Title	Maximum Employment Duration*	Employment Tenure
Cam Nicholson	Project Manager	1.5 days/week	Contractor ²
Jennifer Clarke	Neighbourhood Group Facilitator	2.5 days/week	Contractor ³
Suzie Ellis	GIS Support Officer	0.5 days/week	Employee
Troy Missen	Neighbourhood Group Facilitator	1.0 day/week	Contractor ⁴
Justin Liddy	Rabbit Control Facilitator	2hrs/week	Employee
Pam Oddie	Treasurers/accounts	0.5 days/week	Contractor ⁵
Total		1.25 FTE	

*Use of contractors is on an as needs basis and varies considerably throughout the year.

² Partner in Nicon Rural Services.

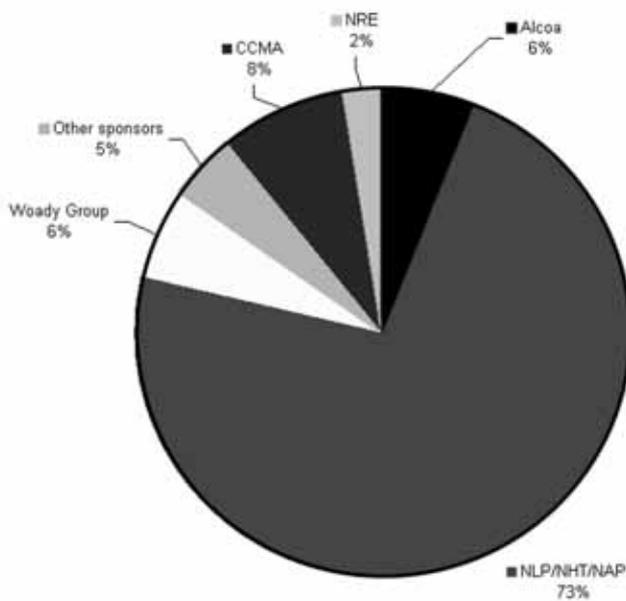
³ Director, JTC Rural Facilitation Pty Ltd.

⁴ Operating as Troy S Missen.

⁵ Partner, DPM Computing.

Seven funding sources were used to match funding from landholders. The contributions of various partners is highlighted (figure 2).

Figure 2. Funding Contributors



3.5 Major activities undertaken by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project in 2004

3.5.1 10 year anniversary celebration

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group celebrated 10 years of activity on Monday April 19 at Ken and Dianne McBeath’s bush block at Linton. The keynote speaker was the Hon Dr David Kemp MP, Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, with Coodabeen Champion Ian Cover master of ceremonies.

The day was a huge success attracting over 300 adults and 200 children from the local primary schools. A painting was presented to Alice and Kevin Knight in appreciation of their leadership and inspiration to the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project

over the first decade and a 10 year commemorative booklet produced through the generous support of Alcoa World Alumina.

A highlight was the 10 year timeline featuring key events in the history of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project.

Many sponsors contributed to the success of the day including Alcoa World Alumina, the Department of State and Regional Development Victoria, Berringer Blass Wines, Landmark, HiFert and Eco Recycle Victoria, along with a huge number of local volunteers.

The total cost the 10 year anniversary celebration was \$31,308.33. Sponsorship covered the majority of this cost, with a shortfall of \$5,248.33 being paid from general revenue.





Woody 10 Year Celebration





3.5.2 Proposed toxic waste containment facility

In November 2004 the Victorian Government announced an area at Pittong as one of three sites shortlisted for the possible construction of a waste containment facility. The Woody Yaloak Executive Committee opposed the shortlisting of the site due to the known groundwater problems at the location and lack of transparency in the selection process.

The executive committee agreed to provide technical expertise and strategic advice to the farms directly affected by the Victorian Government's decision. This included two landholders to the north of Pittong, outside the watershed of the Woody Yaloak Catchment. The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group was not directly associated with the Pittong Action Group.

There were four major roles provided by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group. These were:

- The collation of information relevant to the site and site characterisation process, including discussions with consultants, Major Projects Victoria and other experts.
- The analysis of information provided as part of the selection and Environmental Effects Statement process and any additional information generated as part of the site investigations.
- The facilitation of discussions with the five families affected to ensure information was clearly understood, implications of various decisions fully examined and decisions made.
- Recommendations to the affected landholders in relation to their possible response to the development process.

Cam Nicholson was given responsibility for this role and with the help of Peter Dahlhaus of Dahlhaus Environmental Geology and Phillip Kinghorn (consulting geologist) commenced this task. Imerys Minerals Australia was extremely helpful in providing exploration data relevant to these sites.

On May 18, 2004, the Victorian Government withdrew their listing of the three shortlisted sites and moved their attention to an area of public land in the Mallee.

The total cost of the exercise to the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group was \$20,665. To date \$6,000 has been recovered from Major Projects Victoria with a further \$14,665 in dispute.

3.6 Additional Highlights

On ground activities

- The on ground works committee, led by Danny Laffan, met monthly and considered more than 60 integrated projects.
- Four new neighbourhood groups formed and planned to complete more than \$21,100 of works in their first year.
- Eight information sessions and field days were held involving the Ovine Johnes Disease quality assurance scheme, Red Legged Earthmite control, herbicide manipulation in pasture (x 2), improving the sub clover content of pastures (x 2), gorse control options and no till cropping systems. In total more than 280 people attended these events.
- Gorse field day to target landholders in the upper catchment.
- Stubble management and break crop trials are being established at Werneth and Rokewood in partnership with the Grain and Graze program.
- The establishment of a satellite weed outbreak program to deal with emerging weeds before they become a problem.
- A partnership with Landmark has been established to provide technical advice on the treatment of saline discharge areas.
- Five sites were established as part of the legless lizard protection project.

Committee initiatives

- The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group became incorporated in their own right, breaking a 10 year association with the VFF. This was necessary to achieve deductible gift recipient status.
- Deductible gift recipient status neared completion.
- A new fund called the Catchment Improvement Fund (CIF) was established to receive gift from philanthropic trusts.
- A research trip to Western Australia to understand alternative salinity control methods was undertaken and was supported through the Sue Hickey Memorial Grant.
- New procedures were developed to invite public land managers into the neighbourhood group planning process. The first pilot project is underway incorporating the Bulldog Reserve at Illabarook.
- Studies were commissioned to complete salinity recharge mapping at Pittong, Illabarook and Mt Mercer (Dahlhaus Environmental Geology), conduct waterway surveys throughout the catchment (students from the School of Mines, Ballarat) and assess the severity of salinity at select sites (Ballarat University honours student, students from the School of Mines, Ballarat).
- An agreement with DPI to share salinity discharge information was established.
- Comments or responses were made on five strategies and surveys including the landcare support strategy, National Landcare Program (NLP) review, Charles Sturt University landcare survey, River Health strategy and gorse review .
- The 2004 executive committee are listed (Appendix 2).

Publicity and communications

- The group hosted a high level visit from the United States Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

and his entourage to understand how environmental programs can be successfully married with productivity programs. The visit also comprised the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Chair of the National Landcare Council.

- The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group won the National Landcare Catchment Award in Canberra. The event was attended by four people from the catchment group.
- A 10-year anniversary event to celebrate the achievements of the Catchment Group was held in April at Ken and Dianne McBeath's. Guest speaker was the Federal Minister the Hon Dr David Kemp MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage.
- A booklet to commemorate 10 years of Woody Yaloak was launched at the anniversary celebration.
- The Woody Yaloak website was launched at the anniversary celebration (www.woodyyaloak.com.au), which registered more than 1100 hits in the first eight months of operation.
- A 10m banner documenting key events in the history of the Woody Yaloak Catchment project was produced.
- Three successful neighbourhood group gatherings at the Linton fire shed, Cape Clear recreation reserve and the Christmas function at the Berringa hall plus the AGM at Illabarook.
- Significant media coverage during the year including 13 print articles, 12 radio interviews and three television reports.
- A series of six fact sheets highlighting the biodiversity benefits from recent revegetation activities was prepared by Claire Dennis of Greening Australia Victoria.
- The Catchment Group hosted nine tours, gave three invited presentations and produced 10 information notes.
- Distribution of 800 copies of the 2003 Woody

Yaloak annual report to politicians, bureaucrats, sponsors, agency staff, the catchment community and visitors.

- Woody Yaloak embroidered Driza-bone vests were produced.
- The Woody Yaloak story to appear in a book on landcare being prepared by Curtin University in Western Australia.
- Two local newsletters were produced.
- Production of Woody Yaloak stickers and signs.
- Purchase of a new digital camera.

Geographic Information System

- Additional historic projects were placed on the GIS.
- Additional information related to salinity discharge sites, vegetation diversity and waterway health was collected and loaded onto the GIS.
- The Woody Yaloak photolibrary was completed.
- Landscapes for the Future Ltd, the not for profit company formed by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group completed a successful 2003/2004 year. Highlights included:
 - A small operating profit of \$7,372.31.
 - Sales of \$42,685.
 - High level of interest in the educational sector
 - A copy of the 2003/2004 Landscapes for the Future Annual Report is provided (appendix 3).

4 Financial Position

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group Inc. made a profit of \$137,589.45 for the year ending December 31, 2004, in contrast to the 2003 loss of \$58,019.43. This profit is consistent with expectations as grant money received late in 2004 still had not been expended by December 31.

Income increased by 275%, from \$152,192.18 in 2003 to \$419,074.42. The most significant reason for the increase was a large increase in grant revenue, up by 276%. One off activities such as the 10 year anniversary celebration and part payment for technical advice to the toxic waste issue increased revenue further. Bank interest remained similar however levies rose to \$7,545.25 partly due to the late receipt of 2003 levies from some groups.

Expenditure increased in 2004 to \$281,484.97, a rise of 34% from the previous year. Grants for on ground works reduced slightly, indicating a lag between the receipt of revenue and the claims for re-imburement after the projects are successfully completed. The effects of reducing the re-imburement on revegetation projects from 75% to 50% also affected this result.

Contracts and salaries increase by \$15,737.11. This increase is directly associated with efforts to increase publicity during the 10 year anniversary year, securing new project funding and the commissioning of additional salinity, waterway and revegetation studies. Money spent on employment is expected to return to 2003 levels next year.

Expenditure on publicity also increased, with significant investment into the 10 year anniversary celebration, the website, signs and fact sheets. This should also decline in 2005.

The study tour to Western Australia was partly subsidised by the Sue Hickey Memorial Grant but an additional \$3,436.31 was provided by the Catchment Group out of general revenue to support the involvement of additional landholders.

Technical advice provided to the toxic waste issue totalled \$20,665, of which only \$6,000 has been received in 2004. Major Projects Victoria remains an outstanding debtor for \$14,665.

The net assets of the Group fell by \$18,165.56 to \$27,480.96. This decline is consistent with expectation, with the executive committee deciding to invest Group funds into the Western Australian salinity study tour, 10 year celebration, publicity and additional corporate clothing. Depreciation on equipment accounted for \$3,686 reduction in assets.

Profit and loss, balance sheet statements and equipment schedule are presented (appendix 4).

5 Woody Yaloak Catchment Project Salinity Study Tour

Avon Catchment Western Australia 3-4 April 2004

The Pittong and Illabarook-Mt Mercer areas have been identified as priority locations for salinity investment in the Corangamite Region. Over the next 10 years significant resources are earmarked to treat the saline discharge and also attempt to reduce the recharge that is creating the problem in the first place.

Many of the treatments suggested for the Pittong and Illabarook-Mt Mercer areas have been successfully pioneered in Western Australia. The Woody Yaloak executive committee believed it was essential local landholders had confidence in the treatments before they were introduced on local farms. A study tour to Western Australia was organised for several farmers in the target areas to inspect salinity work and talk to other farmers about their experiences in implementing the suggested treatments.

A two day tour of the Avon catchment was organised for April 3 and 4, 2004. The tour party consisted of Daniel Laffan (Mt Mercer), Blue Smith (Mt Mercer), Col McKenzie (Illabarook), Peter Donovan (Illabarook), Brent Holding (Pittong) and Jennifer Clarke (neighbourhood group facilitator). Each of the landholders involved has salinity on their property and are active neighbourhood group members. The group was accompanied by Gerard O'Brien, an agronomist with Landmark, Skipton and Kane Church a geology student at Ballarat University, who is undertaking research investigating salinity control options in the Woody Yaloak Catchment. The tour was led by Ted Rowley.

The Sue Hickey Memorial Grant generously supported the travel costs for landholders for the tour. The Grant was established by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) to perpetuate and honour the memory of Sue Hickey, a founding staff member of the CCMA. The grant enables members of a regional community to undertake formal learning, training or study tours related to the voluntary endeavours in community involvement and action in natural resource management. Gerard O'Brien and Kane Church paid their own expenses.

Presented is extracts of the study tour report prepared by Jennifer Clarke.

Tour Route

The tour took us from Perth through the West Dale Catchment, Morbinning Catchment, South Tammin Catchment and finally back to Perth.

Tour Highlights

West Dale Catchment Group

From the Landcare lookout in the West Dale Catchment the group looked out across an impressive landscape. Before photos show a seriously degraded landscape, the current view illustrates the results of much hard work by the local Catchment Group. The tour group saw:

- Cross boundary plantings to increase water use in the upper catchment.
- Surface drains to divert fresh water away from discharge zones and in to dams for stock and domestic use.
- Drainage and planting of perennial pastures along the valley floor.
- River revegetation.
- Watertable monitoring.
- Revegetation of saline land.



View across the valley from the Landcare look-out

The tour group discussing drainage options





Ground water pumping to lower watertables

Morbinned Catchment Group

The group was started by the severity of saline discharge in this catchment and speed at which the degradation had occurred. Local landholders showed the group:

- Groundwater pumps working to lower the water table and reclaim areas that had previously been devastated by salt.
- Revegetation of discharge areas with salt bush and other salt tolerant species.
- Large-scale recharge plantings using indigenous species.



Saltbush bringing productivity back to a salt damaged landscape



Tagasaste planted in a recharge zone

South Tammin Catchment Group

The South Tammin Group demonstrated effective treatment of salt across large tracts of land. This is a big catchment with high level of landholder participation in Landcare. The perspective provided from lookouts and before/after aerial photos showed a landscape that has undergone a dramatic change. The tour group looked at:



- Tagasaste planted in recharge zones and being utilised as a feed base for a profitable beef cattle enterprise.
- Alley farming – cropping between narrow belts of trees on salt damaged land.
- Agroforestry in recharge areas.
- Restoration of valuable indigenous banksia communities previously degraded by the effects of rising water tables.
- Fish farming – an enterprising approach to using saline discharge.

Fish farming in saline ponds



Banksia regeneration

Last impressions and issues to think about

- The tour increased participants' awareness and understanding of the links between salinity discharge and recharge. At the end of the tour the landholders were keen to start calculating the recharge and run-off volumes, and converting that to revegetation and drainage requirements for areas within the Woody Yaloak catchment.
- Another issue that was discussed at length was how to manage saline drainage water. Tour participants were struck by the impact that the groundwater pumping was having on the downstream properties. There had been a lot of talk about drainage prior to the trip, but not a lot of consideration had been given to the issue of where the drainage water would go. This was a very timely warning and has given us cause to question how we should handle the run-off from our local saline sites. The group does not have the answers, but at least now the issue is on the agenda.
- The scale of the salinity problem in the Western Australia was an 'eye opener' to all. However, the group was very motivated by the fact that the landholders that we met were really making a positive impact on their environment. A number of the farmers have also mentioned how rapidly the salt damage had affected the landscape. This emphasised that the time for us is to act now, before the problem gets worse.
- Another really positive thing was the exposure to new ideas such as different drainage methods, alternative enterprises, vegetation options for recharge/discharge planting and plantation design concepts. Not all of what was observed will suit the local environment, but it has given the farmers some alternatives that they may be able to adapt to their own landscape. Since the trip a number of the group have expressed an interest in trialling some drainage work and

exploring the use of salt tolerant fodder species in discharge areas.

- The aerial photographs that the West Dale and South Tammin Groups displayed made a very favourable impression. There is great value in being able to view landscapes from above to get a good appreciation of how all the pieces fit together. Low level, high resolution aerial photography may be something that could be useful in planning and monitoring landscape changes within Woody.

Outcomes

- Since the tour, the farmer contingent have shared their experiences with many other farmers in our catchment. Two formal presentations were given, one at the Woody Yaloak Catchment Annual General Meeting and the other at a Neighbourhood Group Gathering. Both presentations were very well received by their audiences and stimulated a lot of questions and discussions about how we might approach the salinity problems in our catchment.
- The farmers that attended are all currently working on 5-year landscape plans with their local neighbourhood groups. Salinity control measures will be part of these plans. The Western Australian experience will no doubt influence their thinking on the issue, and the ideas that they gained will be shared as part of the group discussion process.
- These plans are complimented by research being undertaken as part of the Sustainable Grazing for Saline Land initiative, with trial sites on the properties of three of the farmers who went on the Western Australian Tour, Alan Smith, Col McKenzie and Brent Holding.
- The Pittong Neighbourhood Group, which was represented on the tour by Brent Holding, is involved in a detailed investigation of salinity processes (geological and hydrological

aspects) and the subsequent design of a salinity management plan for their area. A number of the ideas that are currently being explored in this process were observed during the Avon tour, e.g. reverse interceptor drains, drainage of waterlogged areas and use of salt tolerant fodder species.

Final Words

The tour was an inspiring and very informative experience for all involved. Participants learnt a lot about salinity processes, gained some valuable ideas that may be implemented locally and expanded their network of Landcare contacts.

On behalf of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project and all those who participated in the tour we would like to thank the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority for making this experience possible through the Sue Hickey Memorial award. This is a wonderful initiative and one whose benefits will be long lasting in the catchment.

Jennifer Clarke

May 2005

Appendix 1 — Recipients of funding (2004)

Asterix indicates a claim in 2003

Archer	Kerr, R*
Banks D*	Laffan*
Bath/Taylor	Lockhart
Bingley*	Long
Boyle	McGennan
Bugeja	McKenzie C*
Checkley*	McRoberts*
Daniel*	Mellington, P*
Driffin	Missen, B
Earles	Missen, T*
Ellis*	Puddicombe
Fagg S*	Russell
Fagg, G	Shields
Fagg, L*	Sparrow
Fraser*	Stephens*
Guy, J	Stewart GJ*
Guy, S*	Stewart, G*
Hadler	Walton, Bruce
Hardy	Walton, Bill*
Hirth	Wilkie
Holmes, T*	Yean
Hucker*	Young
Keating*	

Appendix 2 — Woody Yaloak Catchment Project Inc

Executive Committee - 2004

Name	Portfolio group member	Landcare group
Michael Rowe (Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships • Finance • On ground works • Communication / publicity • Productivity 	Pittong Hoyles Creek
John Carr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance (Chair) • Strategic partnerships 	Rokewood
Marion Walton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication / publicity (Chair) 	Rokewood
Daniel Laffan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On ground works (Chair) • Productivity 	Grenville
Alice Knight (past chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships (Chair) • Finance • Communication / publicity 	Pittong Hoyles Creek
Col McKenzie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity (chair) • On ground works 	Misery Moonlight
Peter Donovan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity 	Misery Moonlight
David Coutts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication / publicity 	Pittong Hoyles Creek
Brett Missen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On ground works • Productivity 	Werneth
Kevin Knight (past past Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance 	Pittong Hoyles Creek
Vacant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Dales & Haddon
Vacant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Werneth
CCMA representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships 	Corangamite CMA
Alcoa representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships • Finance • Communications 	Alcoa World Alumina
DPI representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships 	DPI

Appendix 3 — Landscapes for the Future Ltd



ACN 101 860 600

The Landscapes for the Future Vision

"To share the knowledge obtained as catchment management leaders to improve rural land management for the benefit of residents, businesses and the environment."

The Board of Landscapes for the Future Limited

In 2003/2004 the Board comprised the following four directors:

Alice Knight (Chairperson), Woody Yaloak Catchment Project

Cam Nicholson, Nicon Rural Services

Pam Oddie, DPM Computing

Danny O'Neill, Chandris Pty Ltd

Progress

The 2003/2004 year was a period of consolidation for the Landscapes for the Future project, with existing users increasing their level of knowledge of the software and making use of the technology to assist in the management of a range of environmental projects.

New users of Landscapes for the Future during the year included National Trust – Mooramong, with further extension of use throughout the Hopkins Moyne Landcare Network; Corangamite Catchment Management Authority region and the Emu Creek Catchment in Queensland.

A highlight of the 2003/2004 year was the high level of interest shown by the education sector, with a number of University, TAFE and secondary school institutions showing interest in using Streets Ahead as a learning tool. In this sector the program is seen as an excellent introduction to the GIS concept and a stepping-stone to its broader application in environmental studies. Landscapes for the Future was also able to assist in ensuring that educational institutions are able to access low cost data from government bodies so that students can use "real" information to obtain the full benefit of GIS software.

Training courses were conducted for Landcare Coordinators in the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority region, teaching coordinators how to get the best out of their Streets Ahead software.

Landscapes for the Future was also invited to give presentations to a range of interested groups, with the highlight being a presentation at the National Landcare Facilitators Community Conference in Geelong in March 2004.

Landscapes representatives were also involved in negotiations with Greening Australia WA to provide them with training materials to help consolidate the extensive use of Streets Ahead in the Avon Catchment region of Western Australia.

Chairperson's Report

The past twelve months has seen yet another exciting period for Landscapes for the Future Ltd. It has been very satisfying for all those involved in the project to see a great many users consolidating their skills and knowledge in the use of the Streets Ahead software.

The importance of the Landscapes concept was recognised in 2004 when the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project was announced the 2004 winner of the Sensis National Catchment Award at the National Landcare Awards. The development of GIS specific software through the Landscapes for the Future Project was viewed as one of the many strengths that enabled the Woody Yaloak to win this highly regarded award.

In response to the continued support of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project and its ongoing enthusiasm to embrace technology, the Board of Landscapes for the Future Ltd agreed in February 2004 to make a financial contribution towards the development of the Woody Yaloak website. This \$1,980 enabled a specific Landscapes for the Future page to be incorporated in the website. The Landscapes for the Future section includes a history and background to the project and explanations of how the software is being used in the Woody Yaloak Catchment and also in the broader Landcare community. Special thanks must be extended to Tony Wilson of Red Hill Technology and to Rick Pope for their excellent work in getting the website up and running.

Another highlight of 2004 was the visit to the Woody Yaloak Catchment by the United States Deputy Secretary for Agriculture, Dr Jim Moseley. Whilst touring the Catchment, Dr Moseley was very interested in how GIS and GPS technology was being applied and how the Landscapes for the Future concept had evolved. He was provided with a demonstration of the software and was very impressed by what had been achieved.

The continuing interest in Landscapes for the Future

from so many educational institutions both from within the Woody Yaloak Catchment and throughout the state of Victoria has been extremely satisfying for those who first saw the value in the Landscapes for the Future concept several years ago. The availability of technology such as the Streets Ahead software to students in secondary schools, TAFE colleges, agricultural colleges and universities is something that those involved in the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project, and in turn Landscapes for the Future, have seen as paramount to the ongoing environmental education of the broader community. It is very fulfilling to know that so many educational institutions are recognising the value in equipping the students of today with sound skills and knowledge as they become the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

The financial year ended 30 June, 2004 resulted in a net profit of \$7,372.31. This has been viewed as a very positive outcome that has enabled the Board to make some tentative plans as to how surplus funds could be best put to use. Reinvestment in software and skills development; enabling a scholarship or bursary to be established for environmental studies; and further assistance towards the ongoing development of the Woody Yaloak/Landscapes for the Future website are just some of the potential investment areas that the Board is considering at this stage.

Once again I extend my thanks to my fellow board members and those closely associated with Landscapes for the Future Ltd for their continued efforts in the further development of this project.

Alice Knight

Chair – Landscapes for the Future Ltd

Training

Landscapes for the Future Ltd would like to once again acknowledge the ongoing support of Rural Industries Skill Training (RIST) Hamilton that has enabled a fully accredited training course to be offered and implemented. Without the support of an organisation such as RIST this would not have been possible.

For further information in regard to training workshops please contact RIST Hamilton on 03 5573 0943.

LANDSCAPES FOR THE FUTURE LIMITED
 ABN 39 101 860 600
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

Revenue from Ordinary Activities

Income	2004 \$
Software Sales	
Demonstration Software	0.00
GPS Units & Accessories	611.82
Landscapes Base Package	40,881.82
Streets Ahead Pro Sales	918.00
Streets Ahead Standard Sales	229.00
Software Sales - Other	45.00
	42,685.64
Less Cost of Good Sold	
Software Purchased	
Licence/Data Purchase	10,237.09
Purchase – GPS Units & Accessories	6,104.86
Purchase – Streets Ahead Pro	3,980.36
Purchase – Streets Ahead Std	171.85
Software Purchased – Other	563.18
Postage & Delivery	312.41
Printing & Stationery	707.28
	22,077.03
Gross Profit on Software Sales	20,608.61
CCMA Start-up Grant	0.00
Presentations to Groups	671.00
Training	3782.55
Training Manuals	232.77
Net Income	25,294.93
Expenditure from Ordinary Activities	
Administration/Secretarial Fees	2655.87
Audit fees	568.33
Bank Service Charges	50.88
Company Registration Fees	40.00
Facilitation Expenses	9,594.54
Legal Fees	0.00
Marketing Supplies	4,113.00
Travel	0.00
Directors Fees	900.00
Total Expenses	17,922.62
Net Surplus	\$ 7,372.31

Appendix 4 — Financial Statements

Woody Yaloak Catchment Group Inc.

ABN: 86 543 641 340

Profit & Loss Account

For the year ending 31 December 2004

Income (excl GST):	2004		2003	
Grants (note 1)	\$	385,040.00	\$	139,430.60
Woody Yaloak Catchment Improvement Fund	\$	200.00	\$	-
Levies (note 2)	\$	7,545.25	\$	3,524.86
Interest	\$	3,111.63	\$	3,511.20
Sales (note 3)	\$	1,514.36	\$	4,775.52
10 year anniversary celebration (note 4)	\$	9,060.00	\$	-
Other (note 5)	\$	12,603.18	\$	950.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$	419,074.42	\$	152,192.18
Expenditure (excl GST)				
Grants for on-ground works	\$	88,621.12	\$	93,342.65
Woody Yaloak Catchment Improvement Fund (CIF)	\$	210.00	\$	-
Contracts / salaries* (note 6)	\$	113,411.25	\$	97,674.14
Publicity / communications (inc signs, factsheets, website, annual report, corporate clothing)	\$	19,235.33	\$	13,203.56
Study trip to Western Australia	\$	7,186.31	\$	-
Committee activities (note 7)	\$	260.00	\$	5,131.58
Landscapes for the Future	\$	-	\$	533.40
Technical advice — Toxic Waste Site, Pittong (note 8)	\$	20,665.00	\$	-
Other	\$	587.64	\$	326.28
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	281,484.97	\$	210,211.61
NET PROFIT	\$	137,589.45	\$	-58,019.43

Note 1: Grants received from National Action Plan (NAP), the CCMA, Dow Agrosience and Sustainable Grazing of Saline Land. Does not include an additional \$135,000 in grants invoiced but not received from Alcoa, the CCMA and NAP.

Note 2: Paid by members of the landcare groups in the catchment

Note 3: Includes tours, equipment hire and attendance at workshops.

Note 4: Includes financial support from the Department of State and Regional Development and WMC (HiFert).

Note 5: Includes money from Bundaberg Rum, Major Projects Victoria (part payment for work on the toxic waste site), Golden Plains Shire, DPI (insurance) and Landscapes for the Future (website development).

Note 6: Excludes \$10,347 paid to Nicon Rural Services for services to the toxic waste issue

Note 7: Includes expenses at NHG gatherings and fox / rabbit programs.

Note 8: Includes fees for Dahlhaus Environmental Geology (\$10,318) and Nicon Rural Services (\$10,347).

* = includes tax, supannuation, workcover, travel and all secretarial expenses (postage, travel, telephone, hall hire)

NB: This account has not been officially audited

Woody Yaloak Catchment Group Inc.

ABN: 86 543 641 340

Balance Sheet

For the year ending 31 December 2004

CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank	Acc: 1027 7534 (CBA)	\$	235,089.04
Investments at bank	Acc: 5026 6856 (CBA)	\$	29,170.18
	Acc: 5026 7779 (CB)	\$	39,094.20
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		\$	303,353.42
NON CURRENT ASSETS		\$	9,060.00
Field equipment		\$	5,826.49
Computer hardware		\$	3,348.88
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		\$	419,074.42
OUTSTANDING DEBTORS			
Major Projects Victoria (note 1)		\$	14,665.00
Grant agreements (note 2)		\$	135,211.73
TOTAL OUTSTANDING DEBTORS		\$	149,876.73
TOTAL ASSETS		\$	462,405.52
CURRENT LIABILITIES		\$	-
Grant agreements (note 3)		\$	441,447.56
GST liability		\$	-6,523.00
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		\$	434,924.56
NET ASSETS		\$	27,480.96

Note 1: Monies owed to Woody Yaloak for technical advice to landholders affected by the toxic waste site at Pittong.

Note 2: This refers to agreements signed and tax invoices sent but not received by Dec 31, 2004.

Note 3: This includes grant agreements referred to in outstanding debtors.

NB: This account has not been officially audited

Woody Yaloak Catchment Group Inc.

ABN: 86 543 641 340

Equipment Schedule

For the year ending 31 December 2004

Computer equipment						
Item		Opening Price	Dep. rate (%)	Amount		Closing price
Computer*	\$ 2,500	\$ 540	40	\$ 216		\$ 324
Software*	\$ 3,500	\$ 756	40	\$ 302		\$ 454
Plotter*	\$ 4,000	\$ 864	40	\$ 346		\$ 518
Laser printer*	\$ 600	\$ 130	40	\$ 52		\$ 78
Colour laser*	\$ 2,000	\$ 432	40	\$ 173		\$ 259
Consumables*	\$ 800	\$ 173	40	\$ 69		\$ 104
Laptop computer	\$ 2,250	\$ 486	40	\$ 194		\$ 294
Data Project	\$ 5,695	\$ 1,230	40	\$ 492		\$ 738
Digital camera	\$ 615	\$ 133	40	\$ 53		\$ 80
Digital camera (2)	\$ 512	\$ 512	40	\$ 205		\$ 307
Photo scanner	\$ 326	\$ 326	40	\$ 131		\$ 196
		\$ 5,581		\$ 2,233		\$ 3,349
Machinery						
Bait layers (4)*	\$ 4,800	\$ 2,458	20	\$ 492		\$ 1,966
Carrot cutter*	\$ 600	\$ 307	20	\$ 61		\$ 246
Ripper*	\$ 1,500	\$ 827	18	\$ 149		\$ 678
Gas guns (2)*	\$ 500	\$ 211	25	\$ 53		\$ 158
Protective helmets (2)*	\$ 150	\$ 63	25	\$ 16		\$ 47
Direct seeding machine & trailer*	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,560	20	\$ 512		\$ 2,048
Spray unit	\$ 1,677	\$ 854	20	\$ 171		\$ 683
		\$ 7,280		\$ 1,453		\$ 5,826
TOTAL EQUIPMENT				\$ 3,686		\$ 9,175

NB: Items marked with an asterisk were deemed to be 'fair market prices' as of 31 Dec 2000 and appear as the purchase price.

