



Woody Yaloak Catchment Project

# ANNUAL REPORT

January to December 2005



Features a report on the cause and treatment of salinity in the Woody Yaloak Catchment



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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 and works within the capacity of the catchment
- Protection of remaining natural flora and fauna.

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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
National Landcare Program





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*2005 was a year of records  
for the Woody Yaloak  
Catchment Project*



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1

2005 was a year of records for the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project.

Membership hit an all time high, partly due to the formation of new neighbourhood groups and because of new members joining existing groups. For a project that already has about two thirds of all landholders as members, to be gaining new support is a fantastic result. I believe it is an endorsement of the direction we are taking with productive catchment management.

We helped fund the planting of the one millionth tree for shelter and habitat, a wonderful achievement, and an achievement not contemplated when the project started in 1993. The amount of revegetation is the equivalent to about 1000 hectares and when you drive around the catchment all this hard work is becoming evident with trees evident all over the landscape.

Tree planting, however, was only one of the many activities undertaken and this year project proposals totalled \$1.01 million, with 59 per cent of these funds coming from landholders. Major investments are occurring in salinity management, pasture and crop improvement as well as the more traditional revegetation, weed, erosion and rabbit activities. This level of project funding is also a record and is double the commitment in 2004, and nearly four times the amount invested in the early years of neighbourhood groups.

The increased emphasis on salinity management is significant and I encourage you to read the Salinity feature in Chapter 5, where the causes and solutions of salting in our catchment are described.

These works have been achieved by using the same amount of staff time. This is a great effort and Cam, Jen, Troy and Pam deserve our

congratulations in keeping the project running smoothly with this increased workload.

And with our success comes a challenge to help the project run efficiently. We have a responsibility to ensure planning activities and farm visits are co-ordinated where possible. This means encouraging all landholders to submit their project ideas for the coming year through the annual neighbourhood group planning process rather than as individual applications. To help achieve this, a calendar of neighbourhood groups meeting times will be produced and I encourage you to help us out by attending these events.

There is a second efficiency issue we need to address. The amount of time Jen and Cam are spending on reporting our activities has doubled in the past two years due to increasing demands from our funding partners. While we accept that accountability is necessary, it appears that a lot of the information being requested is not being used to make better decisions. It is unacceptable to be wasting valuable resources in this way and we will be actively pursuing changes to the reporting requirements to reduce the paperwork.

We did make progress on two issues that we identified as a problem in 2004. The first was to simplify the application process required for constructing waterway crossings. The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority has responded to this concern and has introduced a much less bureaucratic process. Unfortunately a number of proposed projects that we were to help fund were withdrawn by landholders before these changes came into effect. I now think the new procedure will be a big improvement and encourage landholders to submit these projects through us. Greg Peters at the Corangamite CMA should be congratulated for his efforts.



The second was to get public land managers to take more responsibility for their patch. We have made some progress here but there is still more to do.

We finally achieved deductible gift recipient status from the Federal Government, allowing us to offer tax deductibility for donations from philanthropic trusts and private individuals. In 2006 we plan to seek funds through these alternative means. Thanks should go to Pam Oddie for seeing this task through.

Landcare is as much about people as on ground action. In 2005 there were both highs and lows. The highs included Alice Knight being named Golden Plains Shire Citizen of the Year on Australia day and Peter Everist and Jane Archer joining the Woody executive committee. On the down side, we were saddened by the sudden death of Bob McGennan, manager of *Yarima* at Cressy. Bob was a passionate tree man and some of the one million trees were because of Bob's hard work. Bill and Marion Walton were farewelled from the district, after more than a decade of active involvement with Landcare and as enthusiastic members of the Woody Yaloak executive. The trees on *Wurrook South* are a reminder of their commitment.

Once again my appreciation is extended to the executive committee members for their friendship and efforts and to our staff of Cam Nicholson, Jen Clarke, Troy Missen and Pam Oddie. Special thanks to Rick Pope and Tony Wilson for their continued website maintenance and GIS support.

Finally, thank you, to members for your continued participation.

Let us all keep Woody Yaloak at the fore in landcare in 2006.

**Michael Rowe**  
Chairman.

# OUR PARTNERS' COMMITMENT TO NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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## **The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority**

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority was established in 1997 (one of nine 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 Authorities 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 and the level of Federal Government Investment. In 2005, more than 75 per cent of all money received by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project came from the

CCMA or via Federal programs administered by the Authority. Another initiative has been the development of a program whereby the Woody Yaloak has been engaged to source its technical advice for salinity recharge control. This is seen as a very positive approach and a new direction.

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 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 of Australia and Woody Yaloak Partnership**

Alcoa of Australia has committed more than \$20m to helping communities with their environmental and landcare activities since the Alcoa Landcare program began in 1990.

With funding from Alcoa, technical support from State agencies, together with rural and urban community groups, Alcoa's landcare initiatives have been a driving force for accelerated repair of degraded land, the conservation of biodiversity, and the protection of waterways.

Since 1993 Alcoa has been a proud partner of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group with a focus on supporting on ground works and in helping Woody Yaloak share its knowledge and experience with others.



In 2005 the partnership focussed on revegetation projects, which involved significant weed removal, fencing and establishment of new vegetation, and the analysis of bird survey data collected at the Clarksdale bird sanctuary.

Alcoa sees continuity of support and partnership development as essential to landcare groups in their quest to achieve their goals and targets for their landscapes and communities and in turn the achievement of regional Natural Resource Management goals and targets.

Alcoa's environmental partnerships program has been evolving in response to community change and national priorities. Alcoa seeks to remain at the forefront responding to emerging community-lead initiatives in the broader environmental field.

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

***Alcoa – Partnering Stronger Communities.***

# 2005 IN REVIEW

The review of 2005 is described in five parts. These are:

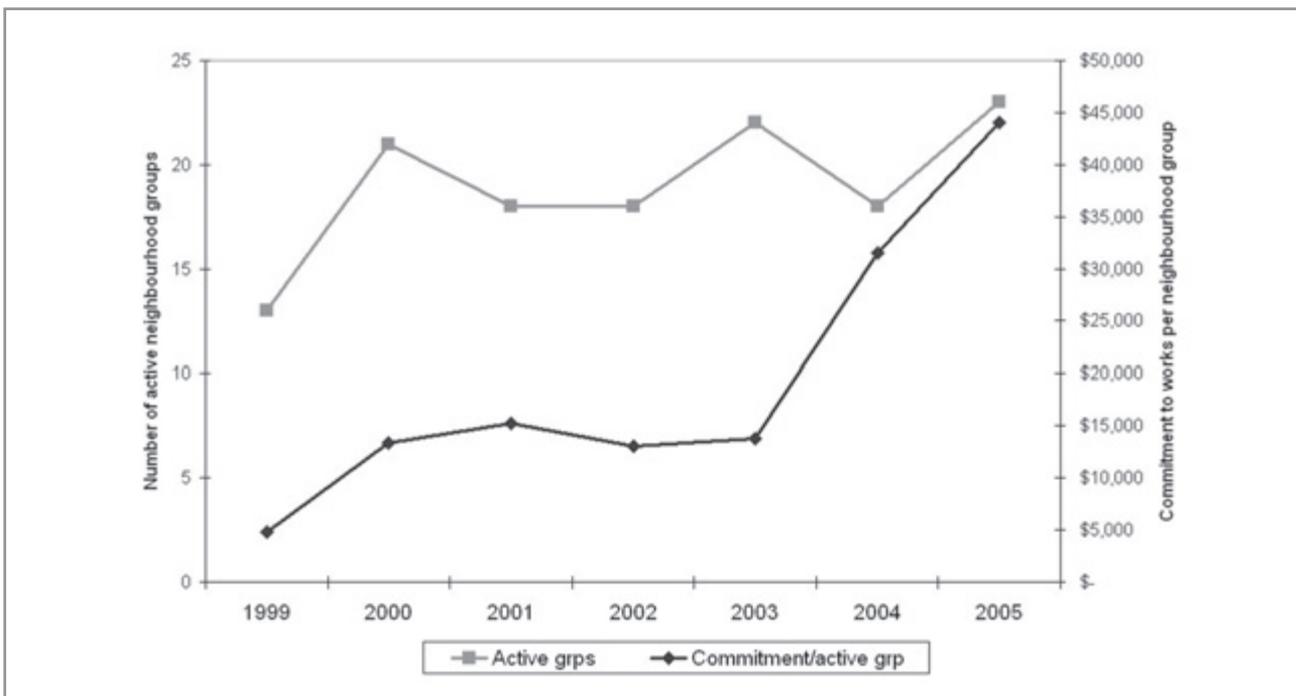
- Commitment by landholders to undertake new works in the next 12 months.
- Works that were completed and claimed by landholders in 2005.
- Staffing to support planning and implementation.
- Revenue to match the proposed works.
- Other activities and highlights.

## 3.1 COMMITMENT BY LANDHOLDERS TO UNDERTAKE NEW WORKS

Twenty three neighbourhood groups committed to new works in 2005. Project applications received from these groups were double the previous year and four times the average of 1999 to 2003. This was due to a combination of new neighbourhood groups forming, new members joining existing neighbourhood groups and major investment in salinity management.

The number of active neighbourhood groups has been relatively steady since the approach was introduced in 1999. However there has been a marked increase in the amount of works done by each neighbourhood group (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1 Number of neighbourhood groups and value of works per group.





Neighbourhood groups were introduced in 1999 as a way of encouraging landholders to plan and act collectively. It was also designed to increase the total amount of work done by each group, using group discussion to encourage activity in a range of areas. The results shown in figure 1 indicate the growth in activity per group and vindicate the decision the Woody Yaloak Executive Committee took in 1999 to embrace the concept of neighbourhood groups.

A summary of the works to be undertaken in 2005 is listed (Table 1). Total revegetation activities doubled compared to 2004, and can be largely attributed to works related to salinity control and general landscape planting. For the first year since the project commenced in 1993, there was no direct seeding undertaken.

The peak of activity created by the accelerated grazing systems project has passed with pasture activities assessed and approved by December 2005 (excluding saline land rehabilitation) totalling \$138,541, down from \$312,000 in 2004. This is a result of most interested farmers having already planned and registered their intentions.

Five new neighbourhood groups formed in 2005, three of which were located in the upper reaches of the catchment. These new groups combined with the ongoing activities of other small landholder neighbourhood groups has resulted in \$47,850 being directed to works (mainly gorse control and revegetation). This has been matched by landholder cash and in kind support, making the total value of activity more than \$100,000.



TABLE 1 – Works planned in 2005 (compared to 2004)

Activity	Quantity in 2005	Change from 2004	Total project Expenditure <sup>1</sup>
<b>Creek crossing</b>	1 crossing	0	\$ 700
<b>Earthworks – wetland</b>	0 hrs	- 12 hrs	\$ 0
<b>Erosion control - earthworks</b>	19 hrs	+7 hrs	\$ 1,200
<b>Fencing</b>			
Landscape (shelterbelts)	37.9 km	+ 17.0 km	\$ 179,823
Remnants	0.4 km	- 1.3 km	\$ 2,205
Recharge areas (salinity)	2.5 km	+ 2.5 km	\$ 11,815
Saline areas	21.2 km	+20.2 km	\$ 102,582
Waterways	9.8 km	0 km	\$ 59,588
Wetlands	0 km	-0.7 km	\$ 0
	<b>71.8 km</b>	<b>+ 37.8 km</b>	<b>\$ 356,013</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			
<b>Pastures</b>			
Fertiliser/lime/gypsum	92 ha	-599 ha	\$ 10,012
Herbicide manipulation	391 ha	-800 ha	\$ 10,803
Seed (pasture, lucerne)	275 ha	-250 ha	\$ 75,098
Seed (saline areas)	128 ha	+102 ha	\$ 129,284
Subdivisional fencing	3.8 km	- 5.8 km	\$ 17,660
Watering points (paddock)	8 troughs	-1 troughs	\$ 27,323
Watering points (off stream)	5 troughs	-1 troughs	\$ 7,368
			<b>\$ 267,825</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			
<b>Rabbit ripping</b>	<b>81 hrs</b>	<b>+ 70 hrs</b>	<b>\$ 8,164</b>
<b>Salinity</b>			
Recharge drains	3.8 km	+ 3.8 km	\$ 11,262
Recharge dams	2 dams	+ 2 dams	\$ 8,400
Drains (waterlogging control)	5.2 km	+ 5.2 km	\$ 15,616
			<b>\$ 35,278</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			
<b>Trees</b>			
Landscape (shelter belts)	69339 tubestock	+31146 tubestock	\$ 137,056
0 km direct seeding		- 7.4 km direct seeding	\$ 0
Trees (salinity recharge)	14565 tubestock	+ 13340 tubestock	\$ 28,402
Trees (above salinity discharge)	26625 tubestock	+ 26625 tubestock	\$ 50,998
Watercourses	10330 tubestock	- 6830 tubestock	\$ 21,033
0 km direct seeding		0 km direct seeding	\$ 0
Wetlands	0 tubestock	- 450 tubestock	\$ 0
<b>Total tubestock</b>	<b>120,859 tubestock</b>	<b>+63831 tubestock</b>	<b>\$ 237,489</b>
<b>Total direct seeding</b>	<b>0 km direct seeding</b>	<b>-7.4 km direct seeding</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
			<b>\$ 237,489</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			
<b>Weed control</b>			
Mechanical / cultivation	332 hrs	- 425 hrs	\$ 25,643
Herbicides (saline areas)	73 ha	+ 73 litres	\$ 14,460
Herbicides (non saline areas)	1067 litres	+ 994 litres	\$ 65,945
			<b>\$ 106,048</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Includes grant allocation, landholder cash and 'in kind' contribution.

The total financial commitment for these works, including landholder input was calculated at \$1.01 million. This is an increase on 2004 of \$441,000 or 78% and is the highest single commitment for works since the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project began in 1993. This is a four fold increase of project funding since 2003 nearly double the \$231,654 committed in 2004 (Figure 2).

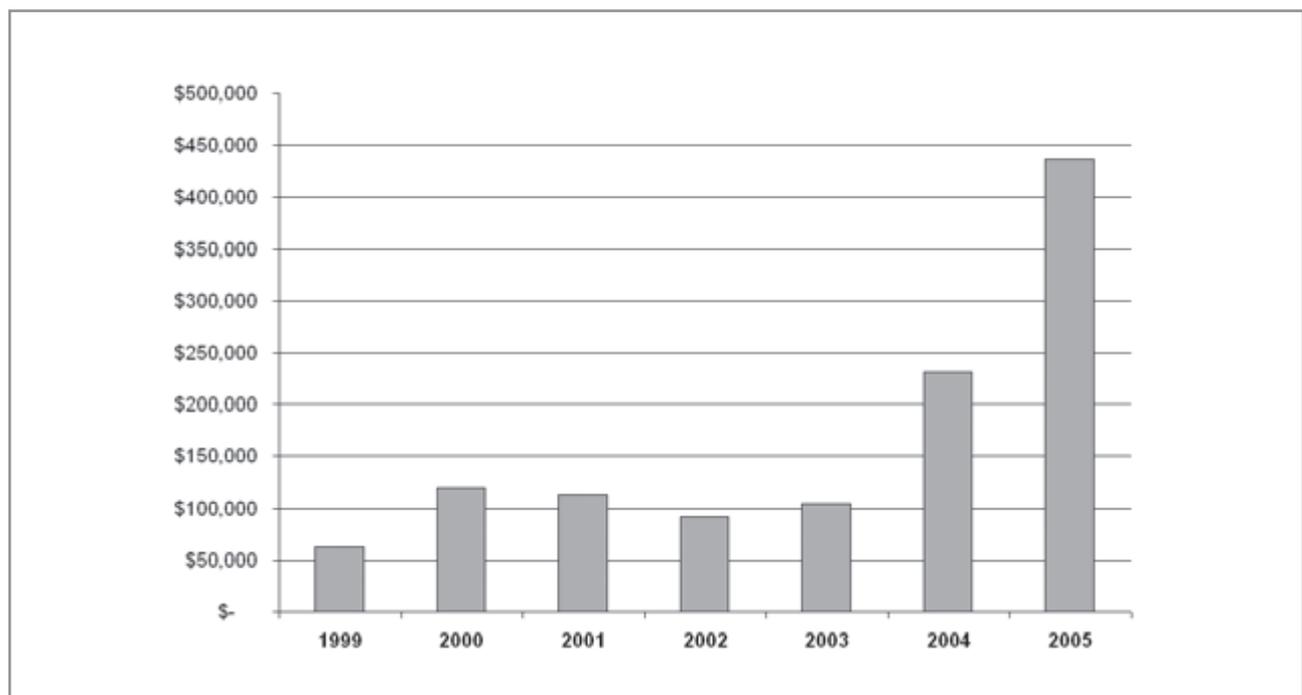
Landholder cash and in-kind (labour) investment remained at about 60% of the total project cost.

### 3.2 WORKS COMPLETED AND CLAIMED BY LANDHOLDERS

Works completed and re-imbursed by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project in 2005 amounted to \$204,749.29. This was a \$116,128.17 increase on the previous year. Claims made by landholders were 1.9 % under budget.

Sixty seven landholders made claims for works completed (Appendix 1). Only 19 of these landholders had also claimed in 2004.

FIGURE 2 Grant funding to neighbourhood groups (1999 - 2005).



### 3.3 SUPPORT STAFF

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Project uses the services of four people to help support the project. All are engaged on a part-time basis as contractors. Total employment in 2005 was equivalent to just over one full time people (Table 2). Four students were also employed on a short term casual basis to assist with surveys and computer data entry.

TABLE 2 – People employed by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project (2005).

Name	Title	Maximum employment duration*	Employment tenure
Cam Nicholson	Project Manager	1.5 days/week	Contractor <sup>2</sup>
Jennifer Clarke	Neighbourhood group facilitator	3.0 days/week	Contractor <sup>3</sup>
Troy Missen	Neighbourhood group GIS officer	0.5 days/week	Contractor <sup>4</sup>
Pam Oddie	Treasurers/accounts	0.25 days/week	Contractor <sup>5</sup>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.1 FTE</b>	

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

### 3.4 REVENUE TO MATCH PROPOSED WORKS

Eight major funding sources were used to match commitments from landholders. The contributions of various partners is highlighted (Figure 3). The major contributors were the Federal and State Governments through the National Landcare Program (NLP) and National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality (NAP).

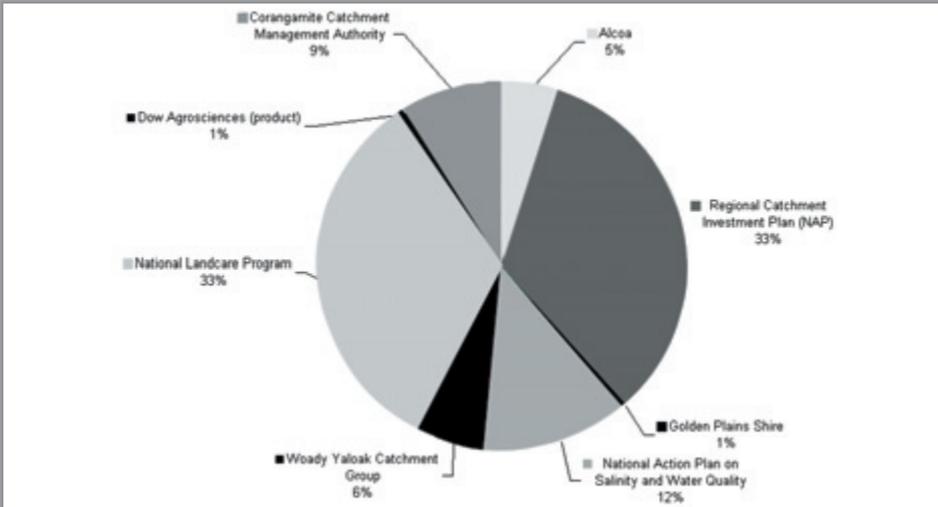
<sup>2</sup> Partner in Nicon Rural Services

<sup>3</sup> Director, JTC Rural Facilitation Pty Ltd.

<sup>4</sup> Operating as Troy S Missen

<sup>5</sup> Partner, DPM computing.

FIGURE 3 Funding sources to the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project (2005).



### 3.5 ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WOODY YALOOK CATCHMENT PROJECT IN 2005

#### On ground activities

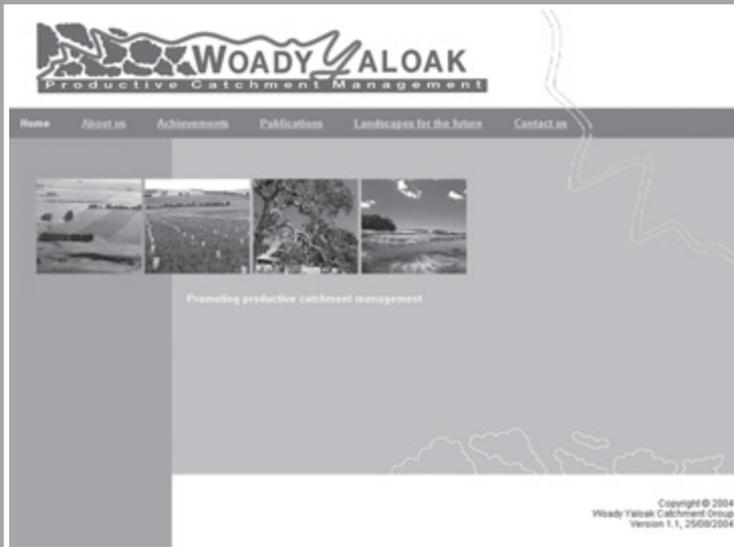
- The on ground works committee, led by Danny Laffan, met monthly and considered more than 60 integrated projects.
- Five new neighbourhood groups formed and planned to complete more than \$17,300 of works in their first year.
- More than 150 farm visits were conducted by Jennifer Clarke and Cam Nicholson.
- Continuation of the satellite weed outbreak program to deal with emerging weeds before they become a problem. Chemical donated by Dow Agrosciences was distributed to neighbourhood groups.
- Grant guidelines were reviewed in light of the increased number of small block owners joining the project and the trend towards wider row tree plantations.
- The Misery Moonlight and Rokewood landcare groups participated in a co-ordinated rabbit baiting program.
- Research into the role of perennial pastures for recharge control commenced at four sites in the Illabarook and Mt Mercer areas as part of the national Evergraze program. Danny Laffan was appointed to the Evergraze steering committee.
- Engaged GreenCorp and Conservation Volunteers Australia to assist with revegetation activities.
- Supported the junior landcare activities at Scarsdale.

#### Committee initiatives

- Deductable gift recipient status achieved.
- A water quality monitoring project commenced in partnership with the Corangamite CMA. Fifteen sites will be sampled monthly and also after storm events to identify possible sources of nutrients and soil loss.
- Supported several landholders objecting to the Department of Sustainability and Environment over increases in charges and/or management responsibilities on leased crown land. These landholders have actively managed parcels of crown land to remove pest plant and animal threats, enhance biodiversity and improved overall amenity.
- Developed a 'sister landcare' arrangement with Tamar NRM in Tasmania to share ideas on enhancing landcare in the future, especially in relation to closer ties with local government.
- Farewell presentation to Bill & Marion Walton who left the district.
- Discussion regrading the future management of Bulldog Reserve (ongoing) and the Illabarook gravel pit (commenced).
- Comments were made on the regional landcare support strategy and co-ordinators review.
- Appointment of two new members to the executive committee (Appendix 2).

#### Publicity and communications

- Awarded an honorary club membership from the Bird Observers Club of Australia in recognition of the partnership with the Clarkesdale Bird Sanctuary.
- A second order for the Woody at Work embroidered Driza-bone vests jackets were produced.



- The Woody Yaloak website registered more than 1400 hits www.woodyyaloak.com.au
- Four successful neighbourhood group gatherings were held at Cape Clear recreation reserve (AGM), Rokewood Golf Club, Mt Mercer and at the Christmas gathering at *Yarima*. Guest speakers included Dr Peter Everist on animal welfare issues, Greg Peter from the Corangamite CMA on waterway health, Pacific Hydro on the proposed wind farm at Mt Mercer and the DPI on their salinity recharge work.
- Significant media coverage during the year including 6 print articles, 2 radio and one television report, with the highlight being the Land Water and wool media tour to Bluey Smith's at Mt. Mercer.
- The Catchment Group hosted 14 tours and gave five invited presentations. This included other CMAs, students (Marcus Oldham College, Ballarat Grammar, Swinburne and Melbourne Universities), public servants and councillors and staff from Golden Plains Shire.
- Distribution of 600 copies of the 2004 Woody Yaloak annual report to politicians, bureaucrats, sponsors, agency staff, the catchment community and visitors.
- Two local newsletters were produced.
- Both Woody Yaloak computers were upgraded to improve GIS capability.
- *Landscapes for the Future Ltd*, the not for profit company formed by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group ceased trading in June 2005, after 3 years of operation. The decision to close the business is explained in appendix 3. Of note was:
  - Sales of 25 copies of the software and 11 GPS modules.
  - A small operating loss of \$1,807.65.
  - Distribution of the cash assets went to partly pay attendance at a national GIS conference in Darwin, to maintain the Woody Yaloak website to 2008 and as a scholarship to be offered to Ballarat School of Mines on projects related to GIS and landcare.
- A copy of the 2004/2005 *Landscapes for the Future* Annual Report is provided (Appendix 3).

### Productivity

### Geographic Information System

- The GIS position was rationalised from two to one part time position. Special thanks to Suzie Ellis for her assistance with the GIS since the mid 1990's.
- Additional information related to waterway assessment was collected and loaded onto the GIS.
- Four trials on cereal stubble management and legume break crops continued in the Rokewood – Werneth area, funded through the Grain and Graze program.
- A reduced cost soil testing service was established with Farmright Technical Services Laboratory in Kyabram and proved very popular.
- Two session on making fertiliser recommendations from soil testing were held.
- The Victorian No – Till Association field day was held at Werneth.
- The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group ceased being a member of the Bestwool / Bestamb 2010 program, after being requested to pay an annual membership fee of \$375 per person.

# 4 FINANCIAL POSITION

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group Inc. made a 'profit' of \$297,542.39 for the year ending December 31, 2005. This profit is consistent with expectations as grant money owing in 2004 was not received until mid 2005.

Funding received and banked for on ground works, support staff, publicity / communication and other initiatives totalled \$610,744.57 (excl GST). There was only one outstanding debtor, Major Projects Victoria, who have still not paid monies owing as part of the toxic waste dispute at Pittong.

Revenue was 46 % higher than 2004, generated from larger grant applications. Bank interest rose to \$4,803.27 however levies fell to \$4,276.89 partly due to some landcare groups not forwarding on their membership fees by the end of 2005. Income was also boosted by donations from the Pittong Action Group and Hoyles Creek Landcare Group, in recognition of Woody Yaloak's contribution to the fight against locating the toxic waste site at Pittong and the transfer of funds from *Landscape for the Future*.

The assets of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group rose substantially from \$27,480.96 in 2004 to \$52,445.74 in 2005. The upgrading of computer hardware to support neighbourhood group planning slightly increased the electronic equipment assets. Machinery assets fell by \$1,162 to \$4,664.

Expenditure increased in 2005 to \$313,202.18, a rise of 41 % from the previous year. Virtually all of this increase was a result of increased payments for on ground works, which rose from \$88,621.12 in 2004 to \$198,391.82 in 2005.

The total cost of employment, including travel and other expenses totalled \$99,860.09. This was a 12% reduction on 2004 despite a major

increase in the number of projects and strong demand for tours and communication activities. The cost of student projects was \$4,686.23.

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



# SALINITY IN THE WOODY YALOOK CATCHMENT

## 5

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority has selected the Woody Yaloak Catchment as a priority for salinity investment. The following notes explain why the Woody Yaloak Catchment has been chosen, the causes of salinity and the appropriate treatment options. They are taken from the Corangamite Salinity Action Plan (Nicholson, Dahlhaus, Anderson and Stephens, 2006). Copies of the salinity action plan are available from the Corangamite CMA.

### 5.1 THE SALINITY PROBLEM IN THE WOODY YALOOK CATCHMENT

There is 744 ha of land salting in the Woody Yaloak Catchment, all of which is on private land. Eighty-three hectares intersects with high and very high conservation significance native vegetation. Examples are along Illabarook Creek between Imiries Rd and Chathams Rd and along Moonlight Creek near Parkers Rd.

Water quality is a major issue, with more than 240 tonnes of salt a day leaving the Woody Yaloak Catchment at Cressy! This water is either diverted to the Barwon River or (eventually) flows to Lake Corangamite, an internationally important lake.

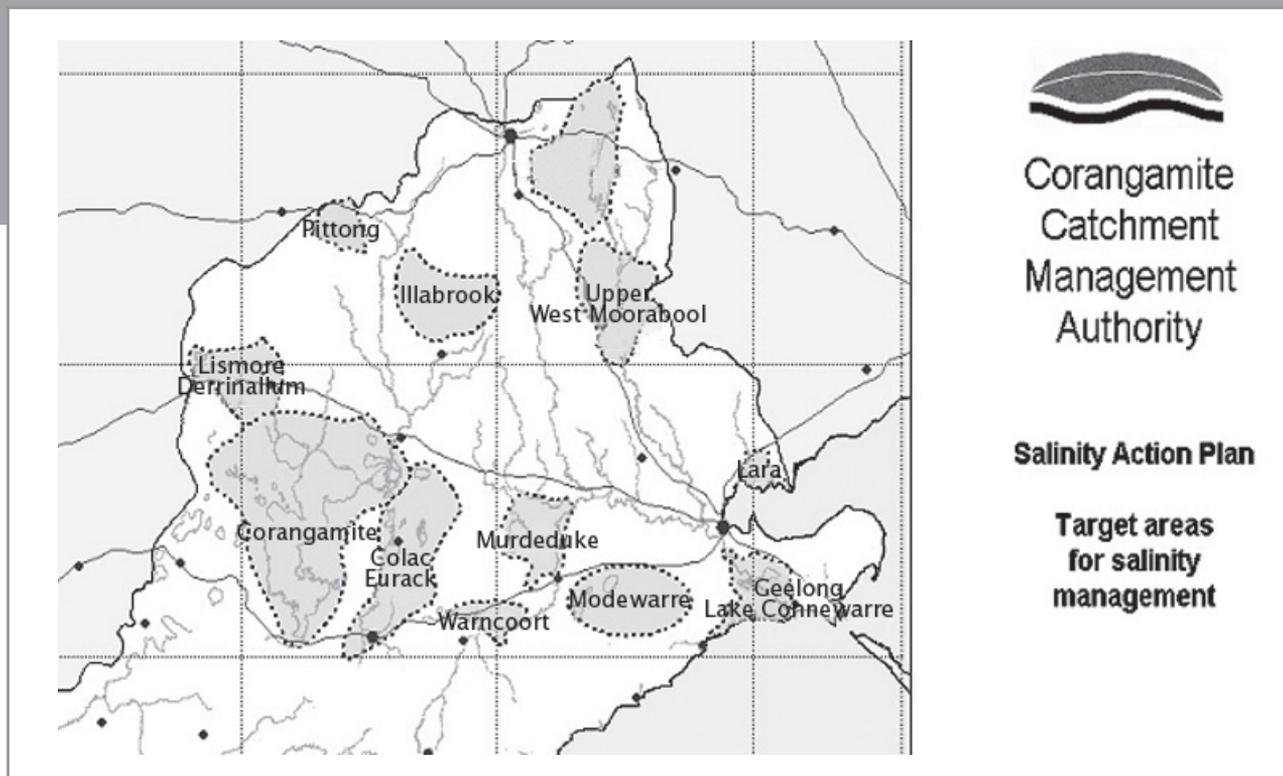
Salinity is also causing the premature breakdown of road foundations in the catchment. Examples of this degradation are occurring along the Mount Mercer - Dereel Rd, Illabarook - Moonlight Rd, Pittong - Lismore Rd and Francis Lane.

Alarming, land salting continues to increase, especially near Pittong where the area of salinised land is predicted to rise from 378 ha today to 600 ha by 2012. The concentration of salt in the Woody Yaloak River continues to rise, even when the dry years are taken into account.

### 5.2 SALINITY TARGET AREAS

Two areas within the Woody Yaloak Catchment have been identified for salinity investment. These two areas are part of 12 locations targeted for salinity management in the future. One area of approximately 6,300 hectares is south of Pittong, mainly on the granite soils and has the highest concentration of induced land salting in the entire Corangamite Region. Salinity was first recognised here in the early 1950's. The other larger area of 20,500 hectares stretches in a band from Cape Clear, through Illabarook to Mt Mercer (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: Pittong and Illabarook target areas in the Corangamite salinity region



### 5.3 SALINITY PROCESSES AND TREATMENT OPTIONS

To determine what can be done to solve the salinity problem, it is vital to understand what is causing salinity in the first place. This varies throughout the catchment.

At **Illabarook**, two salinity processes are seen. Salting occurs where the gravels and sands on the hilltops meet the heavier clays and also where salty water seeps into the drainage lines. The influence of past mining is significant, creating numerous paths for infiltrating rainwater to reach the groundwater storage. It is common to find mine workings located above the saline discharge in the landscape and they probably contribute more to recharge than the adjacent areas. This process can be shown in a diagram (Figure 5).

The salinity problem at **Mt Mercer** is similar to Illabarook however loamy soils exist in place of the gravels and sands. Saline discharge occurs where the lighter soils meet the heavier clays as well as the common problem of saline discharge seeping into the drainage lines (Figure 6).

FIGURE 5: A conceptual model of salinity processes in the Illabarook area

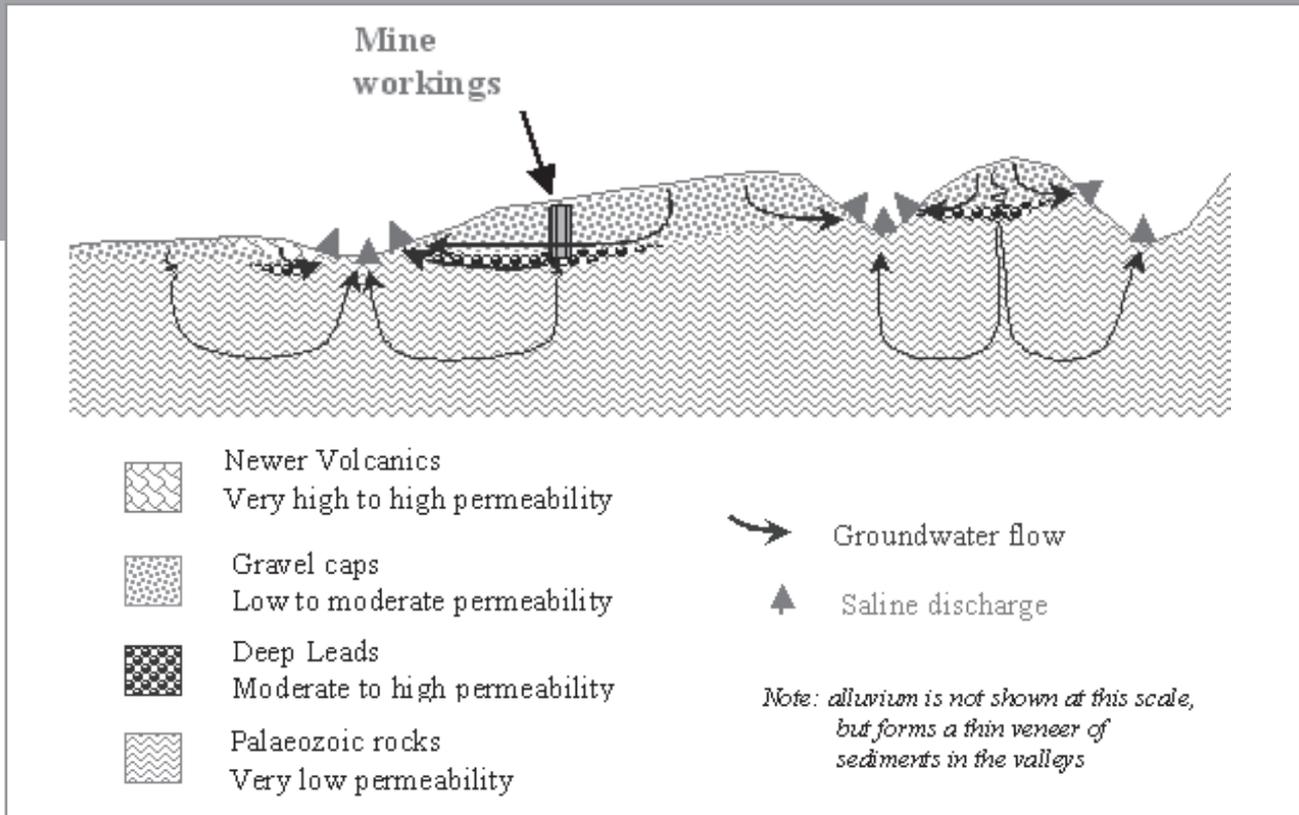


FIGURE 6: A conceptual model of salinity processes in the Mt Mercer area

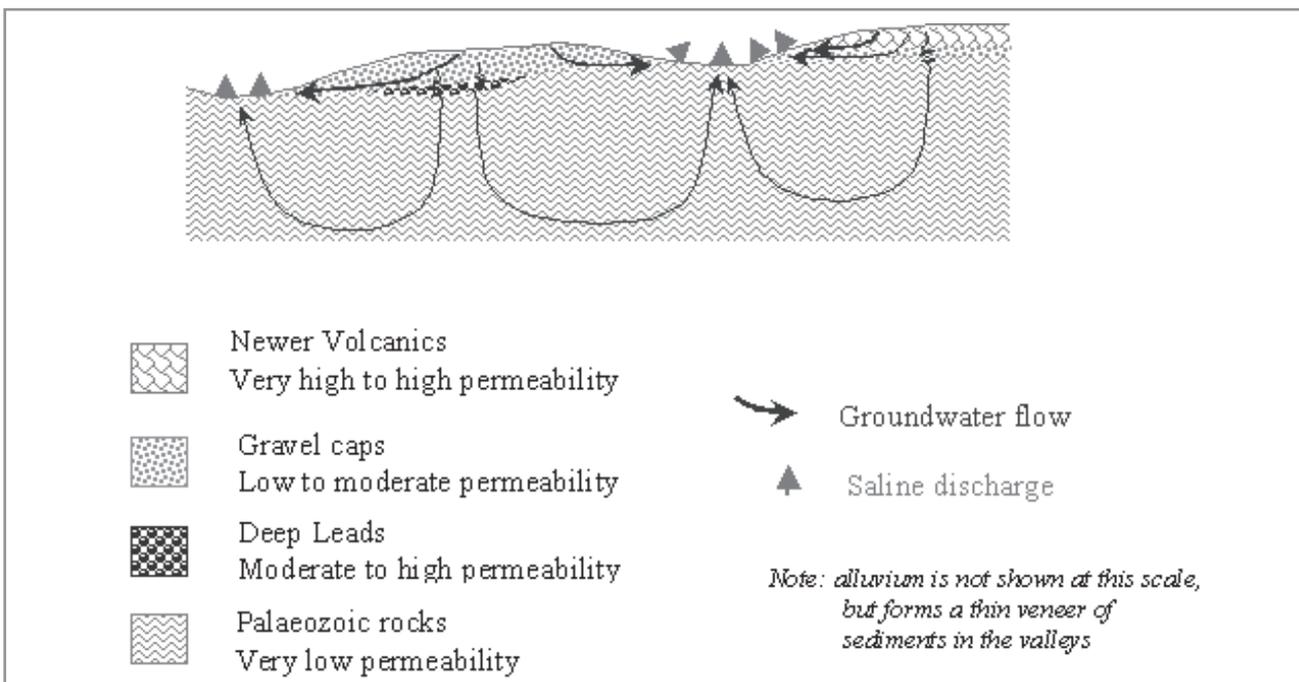
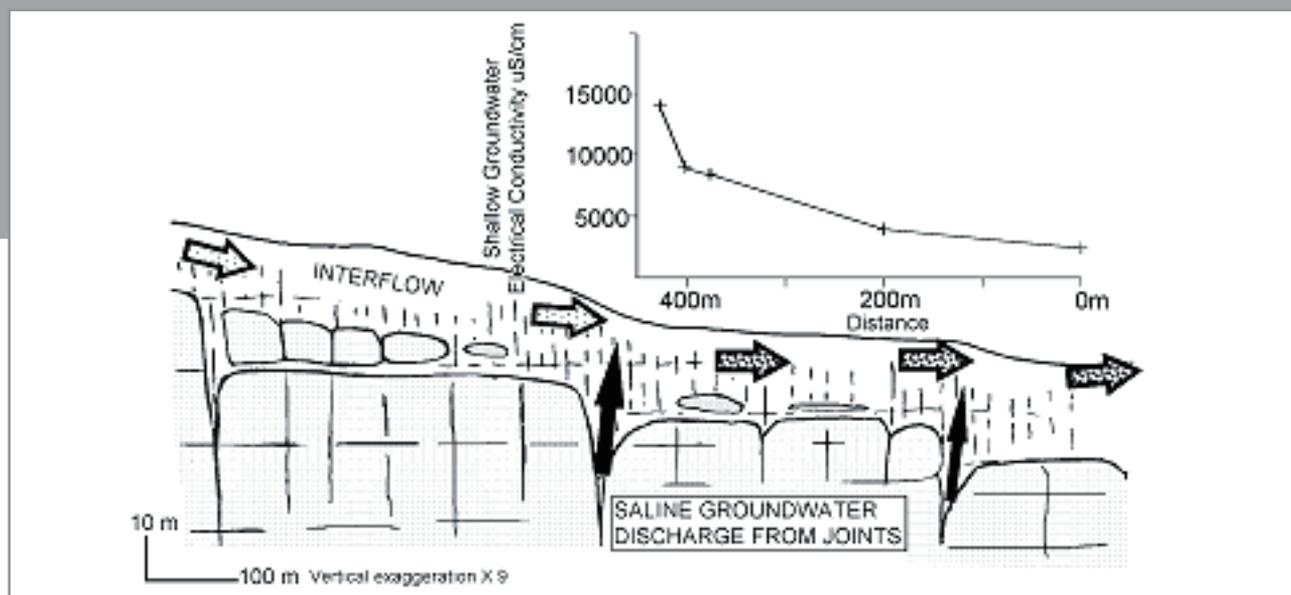


FIGURE 7: A conceptual model of salinity processes at Pittong



At **Pittong** salting occurs as springs in the landscape, usually on the flatter land and in drainage lines which are underlain by deeply weathered granite. Research suggests the springs occur at geological joints, faults and dykes in the granite. The problem is greatly increased when these highly saline salt springs mix with rainwater that seeps into the soil and flows sideways after periods of heavy rain (Figure 7). The result is large saline water that sits in the low lying area of the landscape, killing out all the vegetation except for spiny rush.

#### 5.4 TREATMENTS TO SOLVE THE SALINITY PROBLEM.

In the Illabarook and Mt Mercer areas a two pronged attack is needed. The first is to treat the salty areas, with the aim of getting salt tolerant plants to grow. This will reduce the amount of salt building up on the soil surface and washing off into the river after rain. The second is to try and prevent the water getting into the landscape in the first place.

Trees are currently the only solution supported by the salinity program for recharge control and preference is given to trees planted just above where the lighter soils or gravels meet the heavier soils. Pastures are not recognised as a solution,

however there is research currently being undertaken to determine the effect of deep rooted perennial plants like lucerne, phalaris and chicory to prevent recharge.

At Pittong a different solution is needed. The source of the saline springs is outside the region and probably 50 to 100 km away. Even if these areas could be accurately identified and treated, it would take hundreds of years to see an effect. The alternative is to control the shallow groundwater flows that occur for short periods after rain and minimise soil waterlogging in the valleys. Recharge control measures should be aimed at using the soil-water on the slopes or diverting it before it reaches the discharge areas and lower parts of the landscape where the saline springs may occur. Planting of tree belts to intercept lateral flows or surface drains to intercept and divert flows higher in the landscape before they reach the saline discharge areas are recommended (if the soil is suitable).

Treating the discharge area is also required to prevent salt build up but this needs to be done in conjunction with improved surface water management.

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Project has technical support and funding available to help manage saline areas. Contact Cam Nicholson or Jen Clarke for more details.

# APPENDIX 1

## RECIPIENTS OF FUNDING 2005

ASTRIX INDICATES A CLAIM IN 2004

Archer\*  
Ballarat Field and Game  
Banks\*  
BEN Biodiversity  
Bermingham  
Bingley\*  
Boland  
Brumby  
Bugeja\*  
Butterworth  
Cooke  
Coutts  
Crosier  
Curtis  
Dawkins  
Donnovan  
Edgar  
Everett  
Everett / Dwyer  
Fagg, D  
Fagg, G\*  
Fagg, L\*  
Farey  
Guy, S\*  
Guy, T

Haddon Lions club  
Hadler\*  
Hall - Bentick  
Holding, B  
Holmes\*  
Jefferson  
Justice  
Keating\*  
Kennedy, R  
Kerr, I  
Kerr, R\*  
Laffan  
Long\*  
Mathews  
McBeath  
McKenzie, C\*  
Mills  
Missen, B\*  
Missen, T\*  
Mitchell  
Parsons  
Phillips

Porter  
Puddicombe\*  
Rasheed  
Richardson  
Sculley  
Sharpe, K  
Shepherd  
Sloane  
Smith, A  
Smith, B  
Smith, D  
Stewart, G\*  
Sutherland, R  
Vaccari\*  
Walton A  
Walton, B\*  
Wilkie  
Wilson  
Woods

# APPENDIX 2

## 2 WOODY YAL OAK CATCHMENT PROJECT

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 2005

Name	Portfolio group member	Landcare group
Michael Rowe (Chairman)	Strategic partnerships Finance On-ground works Communication/publicity Productivity	Pittong Hoyles Creek
John Carr	Finance (Chair) Strategic partnerships	Rokewood
Marion Walton (retired April 2004)	Communication/publicity	Rokewood
Jane Archer (commenced June 2005)	Communication/publicity	Rokewood
Daniel Laffan	On-ground works (Chair)	Grenville
Alice Knight (past Chair)	Strategic partnerships (Chair) Finance Communication/publicity (Chair)	Pittong Hoyles Creek
Col McKenzie	Productivity (Chair) On-ground works	Misery Moonlight
Peter Donovan	Productivity	Misery Moonlight
David Coutts	Communication/publicity	Pitton Hoyles Creek
Brett Missen	On-ground works Productivity	Werneth
Kevin Knight (past past Chair)	Finance	Pittong Hoyles Creek
Peter Everist (commenced March 2005)	Strategic partnerships Finance	Dales & Haddon
Vacant		Werneth
CCMA representative	Strategic partnerships	Corangamite CMA
Alcoa representative	Strategic partnerhsips Communications	Alcoa World Alumina
DPI representative	Strategic partnerships	DPI

# APPENDIX 3

## LANDSCAPES FOR THE FUTURE ANNUAL REPORT

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 2004/2005 the Board comprised the following four directors:

**Alice Knight** (Chairperson), Woody Yaloak Catchment Project

**Cam Nicholson**, Nikon Rural Services

**Pam Oddie**, DPM Computing

**Danny O'Neill**, Chandris Pty Ltd

### Chairperson's Report

This is my final report as Chair of Landscapes for the Future Ltd. The business was created in 2002 by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group to share our knowledge about using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in landcare planning and recording. We feel we have achieved this goal and the targets set in our 2002-2005 business plan.

During the three years of operation, Landscapes for the Future generated sales of \$91,000 and trained more than 100 people in its use. Users of the software included landcare groups, individual farmers and the educational sector. The concept was recognised at the Victorian landcare awards where the project was highly commended in the research category. I believe this is a great achievement.

Our achievements in 2004/2005 are described later on, however it became clear to the board that sales were likely to decline in the future. Several reasons were identified including the difficulty of some groups to secure funds to purchase the software, data and training and the expectation of many landcare co-ordinators to have software that could perform more complex tasks than Streets Ahead would allow. Rather than continue with potential annual losses, it was decided to close the business and distribute the small surplus to other GIS related activities.

The Directors decided the remaining surplus funds held by Landscapes for the Future Ltd would be transferred to the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group (estimated to be approximately \$10,000). These funds are to be distributed in the following manner:

- Sponsorship of Rick Pope to attend Conference in Darwin July, 2005 - \$2,000.
- Future development and maintenance of the Woody Yaloak website to 2008 - \$2,000.
- Scholarship/Bursary with the aim to develop a sustainability index for the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group, that could also be used in other catchments - \$6,000.

Landscapes for the Future Ltd would not have achieved what it has without the support of a number of dedicated and visionary people. On behalf of the Board of I would like to extend our thanks to the following:

- The Governor of Victoria, John Landy for his support in launching the business.
- The Corangamite CMA for their financial support at the start.
- Rick Pope (Land Victoria) for his ongoing commitment to the project.

- Jennifer Clarke for her tireless efforts particularly in facilitating presentations and training sessions.
- The development team at Osprey Computing for the initiatives they have shown in developing the Streets Ahead software.
- The co-ordinators at Rural Industry Skill Training, Hamilton who have greatly assisted in compiling an excellent training program.
- Alcoa Landcare for their strategic financial support and input of Ted Rowley.

**Alice Knight**

Chair – Landscapes for the Future Ltd

**Achievements**

The 2004/2005 year was a period of further extension for *Landscapes for the Future* with sales of 20 copies of Streets Ahead Pro, five copies of Streets Ahead Standard version and 11 GPS software modules.

New users of *Landscapes for the Future* included Southern Farming Systems Limited in southern Victoria, as well as a number of landholders in the Lismore area. Further software was provided to the Emu Creek Landcare Catchment Group Inc in Queensland, to build on the work they commenced using the Streets Ahead software in 2003.

Training materials were provided to a number of organisations including Greening Australia WA, and the Hopkins Moyne Land Management and Farm Trees Group.

An informative *Landscapes for the Future* presentation was provided to the East Moorabool Landcare Group.

## LANDSCAPES FOR THE FUTURE LTD

ABN 39 101 860 600

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

#### Revenue from Ordinary Activities

Income	2005 \$
Software Sales	
Demonstration Software	80.00
GPS Units & Accessories	1,089.00
Landscape Base Package	0.00
Streets Ahead Pro Sales	8,580.00
Streets Ahead Standard Sales	1,145.00
Software Sales – Other	249.09
	<b>11,143.09</b>
<b>Less Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Software Purchased	
Licence/Data Purchase	0.00
Purchase – GPS Units & Accessories	0.00
Purchase – Streets Ahead Pro	5,440.90
Purchase – Streets Ahead Std	745.91
Software Purchased – Other	395.00
Postage & Delivery	153.54
Printing & Stationery	354.73
	<b>7,090.08</b>
<b>Gross Profit on Software Sales</b>	<b>4,053.01</b>
Presentations to Groups	200.00
Training	0.00
Training Manuals	475.00
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>4,728.01</b>
<b>Expenditure from Ordinary Activities</b>	
Administration/Secretarial Fees	1,900.51
Audit Fees	525.00
Bank Service Charges	25.89
Company Registration Fees	40.00
Facilitation Expenses	1,026.08
Legal Fees	0.00
Marketing Supplies	0.00
Travel	1818.18
Directors Fees	1,200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,535.66</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$(1,807.65)</b>

# APPENDIX 4

## 4 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### WOADY YALOOK CATCHMENT GROUP INC

ABN 86 543 641 340

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

##### Revenue from Ordinary Activities

Income	2005 \$	2004 \$
Grants (note 1)	568,725.00	385,040.00
Woody Yalook Catchment Improvement Fund (CIF)	-	200.00
Levies (note 2)	4,276.89	7545.25
Interest	4,803.27	3,111.63
Sales (note 3)	597.48	1,514.36
10 year anniversary celebration	-	9,060.00
Other (note 4)	32,341.93	12,603.18
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>610,744.57</b>	<b>419,074.42</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants for on-ground works	198,391.82	88,621.12
Woody Yalook Catchment Improvement Fund (CIF)	-	210.00
Contracts/salaries*	99,860.09	113,411.25
Publicity/communications (inc. signs, factsheets, website, annual report, corporate clothing)	19,235.33	8,082.18
Committee activities (note 5)	1,237.45	260.00
Landscapes for the Future (note 6)	500.00	-
Other	5,130.64	587.64
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>313,202.18</b>	<b>222,325.34</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>297,542.39</b>	<b>196,749.09</b>

Note 1: Grants received from Alcoa, the CCMA, National Action Plan (NAP), National Landcare Program (NLP).

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

Note 3: Includes tours, equipment hire and clothing sales.

Note 4: Includes money from Golden Plains Shire, Landscapes for the Future and donations from the Pittong Action Group and Hoyles Creek Landcare Group (donations in recognition of support with the toxic waste defence).

Note 5: Includes expenses at NHG gatherings.

Note 6: Accountant fees to close the *Landscapes for the Future* company.

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

NB: This account has not been officially audited.

## WOADY YALOOK CATCHMENT GROUP INC

ABN 86 543 641 340

### BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank	Acc: 1027 7534 (CBA)	542,732.62	\$
Investments at bank	Acc: 5026 6856 (CBA)	29,988.50	
	Acc: 5026 7779 (CBA)	40,279.70	

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS** 613,000.82

#### NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Field equipment	4,664.47
Computer hardware	3,369.50

**TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS** 8,033.97

#### OUTSTANDING DEBTORS

Major Projects Victoria (note 1)	14,665.00
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**TOTAL OUTSTANDING DEBTORS** 14,665.00

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Grant agreements	8,033.97
GST liability	577,671.87
PAYG withholding	5,582.18
	-

**TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES** 583,254.05

**NET ASSETS** 52,445.74

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

NB: This account has not been officially audited.

## WOADY YALOK CATCHMENT GROUP INC

ABN 86 543 641 340

### EQUIPMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

<b>Computer equipment</b>						
Item	Purchase Cost	Opening Price	Dep. rate (%)	Amount	Closing price	
Computer*	\$ 2,500	\$ 324	40	\$ 130	\$ -	Upgraded (refer to computer 2)
Software*	\$ 3,500	\$ 454	40	\$ 181	\$ 272	
Plotter*	\$ 4,000	\$ 518	40	\$ 207	\$ -	Written off
Laser printer*	\$ 600	\$ 78	40	\$ 31	\$ -	Written off
Colour laser*	\$ 2,000	\$ 259	40	\$ 104	\$ -	Written off
Consumables*	\$ 800	\$ 104	40	\$ 41	\$ -	Written off
Laptop computer	\$ 2,250	\$ 292	40	\$ 117	\$ 175	
Data Project	\$ 5,695	\$ 738	40	\$ 295	\$ 443	
Digital camera	\$ 615	\$ 80	40	\$ 32	\$ 48	
Digital camera (2)	\$ 512	\$ 307	40	\$ 123	\$ 184	
Photo scanner	\$ 326	\$ 196	40	\$ 78	\$ 117	
Computer 2	\$ 1,170	\$ 1,170	40	\$ 468	\$ 702	
Laptop computer 2	\$ 2,380	\$ 2,30	40	\$ 952	\$ 1,428	
		<b>\$ 6,899</b>		<b>\$ 2,760</b>	<b>\$ 3,370</b>	
<b>Machinery</b>						
Bait layers (4)*	\$ 4,800	\$ 1,966	20	\$ 393	\$ 1,573	
Carrot cutter*	\$ 600	\$ 246	20	\$ 49	\$ 197	
Ripper*	\$ 1,500	\$ 678	18	\$ 122	\$ 556	
Gas guns (2)*	\$ 500	\$ 158	25	\$ 40	\$ 119	
Protective helmets (2)*	\$ 150	\$ 47	25	\$ 12	\$ 36	
Direct seeding machine & trailer*	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,048	20	\$ 410	\$ 1,638	
Spray unit	\$ 1,677	\$ 683	20	\$ 137	\$ 546	
		<b>\$ 5,826</b>		<b>\$ 1,162</b>	<b>\$ 4,664</b>	
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>				<b>\$ 3,922</b>	<b>\$ 8,034</b>	

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







