

Features a summary of the
Woody Yaloak Action Plan
(2008-2012)



Woody Yaloak Catchment Group

Annual Report

Jan to Dec 2007



australia's aluminium

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.



australia's aluminium



Compiled by Cam Nicholson

Design and layout by Marg McKenzie

Photos by Jen Clarke

Printing by Adams Print, Geelong

Table of contents

1. Chairman's report	1
2. Our partners' commitment to natural resource management	3
3. 2007 in review	5
4. Financial position	11
5. Summary of the Woody Yaloak Action Plan (2008 – 2012)	12
Appendix 1: Recipients of funding (2007)	19
Appendix 2: Woody Yaloak Catchment Project	20
Executive Committee - 2007	
Appendix 3: Financial statements	21

1. Chairman's Report

This is my last chairman's report for the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group. After five years the time has come to hand over to someone else.

It has been a challenging five years, not the least in getting through the worse drought in living memory.

I was proud of the initiatives the Catchment Group put in place in 2007 to support our community during the drought. This included financial support to build stock containment areas and watering points, money to resow or replant failed tree or pasture projects and information sessions on pasture, fertiliser and soil management after the drought broke.

We also recognised the strain the drought put on individuals and families, so we held a family night with a magician which was a great success.

It was agreed to put the annual neighbourhood group planning process on hold until conditions improved and people could see a way forward.

Above all I believe the most telling result was the survival of the perennial pastures in the catchment. Of the 30 paddocks inspected during pasture walks conducted after the drought broke, only three needed resowing with the rest containing enough valuable species to regenerate into a strong pasture. Wind erosion caused by a lack of perennial species or overgrazing was much less than previous droughts I can remember.

We should congratulate ourselves on this outcome. I have no doubt our emphasis over the past 15 years on building skills and knowledge in pasture management has helped landholders achieve this result.

Not surprisingly the amount of on ground work decreased as farmers directed resources into fodder, water and survival rather than landcare works. The reduction in landcare investment reinforces our long standing position that in agricultural areas, farm profitability must be addressed if we wish to achieve ongoing investment in catchment management. Productive Catchment Management is as relevant today as it was in 1993 when the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project started.

Unfortunately investors often don't see it this way. They have become more inclined to want to target a specific problem in the landscape and direct money at this priority. We believe such targeted investment excludes the majority from participating and undermines a learning and sharing culture. The task to improve the health of the Woody Yaloak catchment is huge and I fear this targeted investment will cause many to leave landcare. This would be a absolute tragedy.

The change of Federal Government late in the year means we need to form new partnerships. I want to sincerely thank Stewart McArthur, a wonderful supporter of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project and wish him well in the future. The committee also look forward to developing a similar positive relationship with our new local member Darren Cheeseman.

While on partnerships, we are currently implementing a three year agreement with Alcoa, extending our collaboration to 15 years. This is a magnificent effort and helps the project continue to develop



professionally and maintain the ability to respond to community needs.

Golden Plains Shire have also become another regular supporter of the project, making a financial contribution that allows us to fund projects are a priority to us. Parks Victoria became a member of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group and is working with a local neighbourhood group to repair some areas around Illabarook.

New initiatives are being developed to support landholders on small blocks and there has been a renewed effort by DPI to contain the isolated outbreaks of serrated tussock in the catchment. We are looking at running a landcare trainee program to help impart the experience of the Woody Yaloak Project to students wanting to be involved in natural resource management. These are all positive results in a tough year.

I would like to thank the Woody Yaloak executive committee for their friendship and support. Our first chairman Kevin Knight was awarded an Australia day honour for services to local community and the environment and Kevin and Jen Clarke were highly commended at the State Landcare awards. These are great achievements.

Thank you also to our long standing staff of Cam Nicholson, Jen Clarke, Troy Missen and Pam Oddie. Congratulations to Pam and David for the safe arrival of their first child Claire this year. As ever thanks to Rick Pope and Tony Wilson for their continued support with the GIS and student projects.

Finally thank you to all who have participated in the project over the past five years. We have a project we can all be very proud of despite the challenges and I encourage your ongoing involvement in the future.

Michael Rowe

Chairman

2. Our partners commitment to Natural Resource Management

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) is one of 10 Catchment Management Authorities within Victoria and one of the 56 natural resource management regions across Australia. The CCMA was established in 1997 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.

Established under the Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994) and the Water Act (1989) the Authorities primary responsibility is the development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). A major component for effective development and implementation of the RCS is through strong partnerships with investors, delivery agencies and the community, enabling major programs to be developed, that deal with catchment and river management issues across the CCMA.

The aim of the CCMA is to provide an environment that facilitates a community based approach to the integrated management of our catchment by 'inspiring communities to build healthy catchments', by actively contributing to improve the health of our rivers, land and biodiversity assets.

The Corangamite CMA is responsible for the coordination and prioritisation of projects under Australian and State Government initiatives, through the Regional Catchment Investment Plan (RCIP) process each year for the region. The RCIP is administered via the CCMA and is the principal source for investment from federal government funding initiatives such as

the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, the Natural Heritage Trust Program and the National Landcare Program and state government initiatives such as Second Generation Landcare.

The Landcare community movement in the Corangamite region is strong and highly diverse, with around 130 Landcare and other community based natural resource management groups, comprising at least 3000 members. The diversity of the groups and their objectives illustrates the complexity of the landscape in the region – embracing rural, urban and coastal communities. Groups work to protect, enhance and restore the landscape on both private and public land.

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, agreement to deliver salinity outcomes in the catchment and the level of Federal Government Investment.

The Authority would like to acknowledge the important role that the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group plays in leading innovation and sharing their learnings with other community catchment groups both within and external to the region. A number of Woody Yaloak Catchment Group members contribute to direction of the Authority.



Alcoa of Australia and Woody Yaloak Partnership

Alcoa of Australia has committed more than \$21m 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.

Alcoa's current three year arrangement focuses on building the long-term sustainability of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group. Training to know how to approach philanthropic groups and governance training has been funded to build the capacity of the group and ensure its future.

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.

3. 2007 in review

The review of 2007 is described in five parts. These are:

- Commitment by landholders to undertake new works in the next 12 months
- Works that were claimed by landholders in 2007
- Staffing to support planning and implementation
- Revenue to match the proposed works
- Other highlights and activities.

3.1 Commitment by landholders to new works

Drought conditions severely affected commitment to new projects. Total value of commitments in 2007 was \$427,800, a reduction of \$300,000 from 2006.

Total project applications declined to only 41, reflecting the difficulties many

landholders had in finding funds to match the grant allocation on offer. Activity declined in fencing, earthworks and pasture improvement. Surprisingly tree planting remained relatively steady at more than 46,000 trees.

The neighbourhood group planning process was suspended, with only one planning activity conducted. Planning will recommence in early 2008 where participation is expected to resume after favourable spring conditions and good commodity prices.

Landholder contribution to on ground commitments remained at 64%, with grants contributing 36% of the total cost of the works.

A summary of the works to be undertaken in 2007 is listed (Table 1).



Table 1: Works planned in 2007 (compared to 2006)

Activity	Quantity in 2007	Change from 2006	Total project Expenditure ¹
Creek crossing	1 crossing	-1 crossing	\$ 4,000
Erosion control			
Wetlands	90hrs	+90 hrs	\$ 15,000
Earthworks	80hrs	-275hrs	\$ 5,862
TOTAL	170hrs	-165hrs	\$ 20,862
Fencing			
Erosion	3.0 km	+3 km	\$ 17,940
Landscape (shelterbelts)	15.0 km	-18.8 km	\$ 86,805
Rabbits	0.0 km	-0.5 km	\$ 0
Remnants	0.0 km	-0.5 km	\$ 0
Saline areas	0.0 km	-0.3 km	\$ 0
Waterways	3.5 km	-4.3 km	\$ 20,848
Wetlands	0.4 km	+0.4 km	\$ 2,080
TOTAL	21.9 km	-20.5 km	\$ 127,673
Pastures			
Fertiliser/lime/gypsum	240 ha	-121 ha	\$ 28,020
Herbicide manipulation	258 ha	-138 ha	\$ 7,492
Seed (pasture, lucerne)	247 ha	-185 ha	\$ 52,783
Seed (saline areas)	0 ha	-10 ha	\$ 0
Subdivisional fencing	2.1 km	-3.8 km	\$ 8,748
Watering points (paddock)	17 troughs	-4 troughs	\$ 25,590
Watering points (off stream)	6 troughs	-7 troughs	\$ 8,397
TOTAL			\$ 131,030
Rabbit ripping	8 hrs	-42 hrs	\$ 968
Salinity			
Recharge drains	0 km	0 km	\$ 0
Recharge dams	0 dams	0 dams	\$ 0
Drains (waterlogging control)	0.0 km	-0.8 km	\$ 0
TOTAL			\$ 0
Trees			
Landscape (shelter belts)	44080 tubestock	-2,860 tubestock	\$ 88,845
0 km direct seeding	0 km direct seeding	0 km direct seeding	\$ 0
Trees (salinity recharge)	0 tubestock	-1900 tubestock	\$ 0
Trees (above salinity discharge)	0 tubestock	0 tubestock	\$ 0
Watercourses	1100 tubestock	+670 tubestock	\$ 2,694
0 km direct seeding	0 km direct seeding	0 km direct seeding	\$ 0
Wetlands	1200 tubestock	+1,200 tubestock	\$ 0
Total tubestock	46,380 tubestock	-2,890 tubestock	\$ 94,553
Total direct seeding	0 km direct seeding	0 km direct seeding	\$ 0
TOTAL			\$ 94,553
Weed control			
Mechanical / cultivation	61 hrs	- 119 hrs	\$ 4,915
Herbicides (non saline areas)	833 litres	- 157 litres	\$ 27,989
TOTAL			\$ 32,904

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

3.2 Works completed and claimed by landholders

Works completed and re-imbursed by the Woody Yaloak catchment project in 2007 amounted to \$231,247.54. This was a \$75,277.10 increase on the previous record year and is partly due to claims eligible for payment in 2006 not being lodge until 2007 because of time constraints due to the drought. Claims made by landholders were 2.2 % under budget.

Fifty three landholders made claims for works completed, a small reduction in number compared to 2006 (appendix 1). Only 17 of these landholders had also claimed in 2006.

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. A further four

people were used on a casual basis. Total employment in 2007 was equivalent to three quarters of a full time person (table 2). This is a reduction on 2006 and reflects the reduced activity due to drought.

3.4 Revenue to match group activity

Eight organisations supported the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project in 2007. The major contributions came from the Federal Government through the National Landcare Program and National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality. Vital support for drought assistance programs was received from the Country Women's Association, Centacare and the DPI. The programs supported by various partners are listed (table 3).

Table 2: People employed by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project (2007)

Name	Title	Employment duration*	Employment tenure
Cam Nicholson	Project manager	1.7 days / week	Contractor ²
Jennifer Clarke	Neighbourhood group facilitator	1.5 days / week	Contractor ³
Troy Missen	Neighbourhood group GIS officer	0.3 day / month	Contractor ⁴
Pam Oddie	Treasurers / accounts	0.1 days / week	Contractor ⁵
TOTAL		0.7 FTE	

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

2 Partner in Nicon Rural Services

4 Operating as Troy S Missen.

3 Director, JTC Rural Facilitation Pty Ltd.

5 Partner, DPM Computing

Table 3. Financial contributors to the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project (2007)

Contributor	Program
State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Generation Landcare • Drought support
Golden Plains Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed control • Landcare support grant
Australia Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community development grant
Country Women's Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency drought aid
Centacare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency drought assistance
Alcoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support program
Commonwealth Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Landcare program • National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed management, Upper Woody Yaloak corridor • Waterways management • Flora / Fauna brochures

3.5 Activities and highlights of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project in 2007

On ground activities

- The on ground works committee, led by Danny Laffan, met monthly and considered 41 projects, a third of the proposals considered in 2006
- 102 farm visits were conducted by Jennifer Clarke and Cam Nicholson
- Grant guidelines were reviewed to support ongoing drought assistance and funding for replanting failed projects due to the drought
- A review was conducted to determine the appropriate types of support for smaller landholders, especially those with horses
- Rabbit baiting program conducted
- DPI conducted gorse inspections of 100 properties in the Upper Woody Yaloak Catchment. All landholders involved with the Catchment Group passed inspection.

Committee initiatives

- Planning for the next five years of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project was completed. A copy of the plan is featured in this annual report
- Independent audit of the financial position of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group was completed by accounting firm Prowse, Perrin & Twomey
- Nine members from the Catchment Group participated in the Corangamite Landcare Forum
- Chairman and project manager participated in a series of meetings as part of the landcare readiness project. The project aims to make landcare more influential at the landscape scale and give landcare a better profile with Government.
- Attended workshop to improve corporate governance for community groups. This has led to improved documentation of rules, procedures and documentation relating to the operation of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group

- Participation in several workshops conducted by the CCMA involved in allocating future Natural Heritage Trust funding
- Organised a presentation to members regarding the proposed changes to rural zones
- Committee members participated in a workshop conducted by Philanthropy Australia to develop skills in attracting money from Trust funds
- Participated in committees for the Golden Plains Shire (Environment Strategy Review) and made submissions and personal representation to the Biodiversity White Paper committee
- Members of the 2007 executive committee are listed (appendix 2).
- Participated in research into NRM and landcare partnerships conducted by DPI
- The Catchment Group hosted 13 tours. This included five landcare networks and student groups (Marcus Oldham College, Ballarat Grammar and Melbourne University)
- The Woody Yaloak gave a presentations to a Biodiversity conference in Tasmania
- Distribution of 600 copies of the 2006 Woody Yaloak annual report to politicians, bureaucrats, sponsors, agency staff, the catchment community and visitors
- Two local newsletters were produced along with contributions to other local newsletters.

Publicity and communications

- Draft version of the neighbourhood group 'how to' manual completed
- The Woody Yaloak website registered more than 3000 site visits, a dramatic increase on 2006 (www.woodyyaloak.com.au)
- Held four successful neighbourhood group gatherings at Cape Clear recreation reserve (AGM with presentation on carbon trading), a family night with a magician at Linton, a Carbon Neutral Wool presentation at Rokewood and the Christmas gathering at Naringhil. Total attendance exceeded 350 people
- Media coverage during the year including one print and three radio reports
- Committee member Peter Everist was elected to the committee of the National Gorse Taskforce
- Chairman attended two regional network chairs meetings, discussing landcare challenges with neighbouring catchment groups
- Paper on the operation of neighbourhood groups included in the Journal of Landscape Research
- A regional biodiversity brochure was produced

Geographic Information System

- Troy Missen maintained the GIS and updated the photolibrary
- Data provided to the CCMA on works completed in the past 10 years for government funded projects
- Students from the School of Mines Ballarat ground truthed vegetation maps for the catchment.

Productivity

- The NLP pasture program continued despite the drought
- Emphasis moved to supporting alternative watering points and containment fencing with 23 watering points established
- Two information nights on decision to take after the drought breaks (attended by 35 people)
- Four farm walks examining pasture survival after the drought (attended by 40 farmers)
- Pasture variety field day held at Haddon in conjunction with Stephen Pasture Seeds
- Cereal stubble management trials continued in the Rokewood – Werneth area, funded through the Grain and Graze program

- A reduced cost soil testing service was continued with Farmright Technical Services Laboratory in Kyabram.

Sister landcare program

- Tamar NRM visited Victoria and toured the catchment with representative from Golden Plains Shire to further enhance local Government – Landcare partnerships.



4. Financial position

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group Inc. made an operating surplus of \$41,727.76 for the year ending December 31, 2007. This operating surplus is in line with expectations.

Funding received and banked for on ground works, support staff, publicity / communication and other initiatives totalled \$355,193.00. The majority of this income was via grants for specific on ground works and facilitation support. Additional income from interest, member levies, drought assistance grants and other sponsorships amounted to \$22,316.29.

Total expenditure in 2007 was \$313,465.24. Expenditure was \$27,673.25 higher than 2006. Payments for on ground works increased by \$45,688.47 to \$201,658.91. Contracts, salaries and travel decreased by 13% to \$96,135.57. This reduction reflected the reduction in neighbourhood group planning in 2007 due to drought.

The assets of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group rose to \$164,569.27 in 2007. Plant and equipment accounted for \$4,054.00 of these assets.

A condensed profit and loss, balance sheet and equipment schedule are presented (appendix 3). A copy of the full independent audit conducted by Prowse, Perrin & Twomey, Certified Practising Accountants is available on request from the Woody Yaloak Executive Committee.

5. Summary of the Woody Yaloak Action Plan (2008–2012)

Introduction

Every five years the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group develops a five-year action plan.

The first plan was developed in 1993, with support from Greening Australia Victoria, the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Department of Agriculture. The initial plan was used to create a major private sponsorship deal with Alcoa, a first for Landcare in Victoria. The five-year plan was the catalyst for the creation of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project.

The third five-year action plan expired at the end of 2007. In developing a new five year plan, the Woody Yaloak Executive committee reviewed progress during the past five years and consulted widely with the catchment community, to ensure the new plan would accurately represents the desires and views of the catchment community. Four workshops were held involving 110 people, engaging the services of an independent facilitator.

The new five year action plan was completed by the Woody Yaloak Executive Committee (comprising elected members of each of the landcare groups) using the results from the workshop sessions and by examining the issues, priorities and actions identified in relevant Regional, State and Federal plans and strategies.

5.1 Achievements from the previous Action Plan (2002-2007)

The achievements from 2002 to 2007 are reported against four desired outcomes. These outcomes are:

- Viable businesses
- Strong communities capable of managing change
- A natural environment that nurtures business viability whilst working within the capacity of the catchment
- Protection and enhancement of the flora and fauna.

A summary of achievements against outcomes are presented (table 4). A success rating for the five years of the action plan was also given by the Executive Committee.

Table 4: Summary of success against outcomes

Desired outcome	Success rating (scale 0 - 10)	Highlights
Viable businesses	7	Treatment of 4,350 ha of pasture, 165 ha saline land. Removal of significant areas of rabbit harbour, gorse and spiny rush, with control of emerging weeds (serrated tussock). Major erosion work completed and fencing and revegetation of more than 40 km of waterways. 20 pasture and crop walks held and 10 information sessions conducted.
A strong community capable of managing change	9	Held 19 neighbourhood group gatherings, 112 planning meetings and a 10 year anniversary celebration. Achieved deductible gift recipient status. Communications included five annual reports, 12 newsletters, hosted 48 tours, presented at 20 conferences. Website received 3,500 hits. Won National Landcare Catchment Award in 2004.
A natural environment that nurtures business viability whilst working within the capacity of the catchment	6	Attracted external funding of \$1.95 million. Improvements in information used for planning, especially salinity, erosion and waterway mapping.
Protection and enhancement of the flora and fauna	5	345 ha of new vegetation established, with no revegetation project unsupported. 6.5 km of fencing for remnant vegetation protection.

Activity in the previous five years was highly successful in encouraging community participation, social cohesion and working with neighbours. Landholders actively involved in the project managed approximately 70% of the land in the catchment and there was a threefold increase in the works undertaken compared to the previous five years.

Efforts towards the protection and enhancement of flora and fauna were less successful. Landholder interest primarily rested with the establishment of new vegetation rather than the protection of existing vegetation. This was partly because many landholders did not have significant remnant vegetation on their land and partly because the maps of which identified remnant vegetation were poor and often inaccurate, which decreased their use in planning exercises.

The sustained success of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project was recognized with the Group winning the Sensis National Landcare Catchment award in 2004.

Landholders contributed the majority of the costs of projects, investing \$1.66 for every dollar of external funding.

5.2 What landholders want addressed in the future and how to address them

The workshops confirmed the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group should aim to address a combination of business, people and environmental issues.

For business, participants wanted emphasis on the productivity aspects of business viability.

There was very strong support for continued facilitation of community interaction, sharing and learning within the catchment, especially the engagement of landholders who have not been previously involved in landcare. The need to enrol public land managers so they undertake works in conjunction with neighbouring private landholders also rated highly.

Environmental issues such as protection of remnant vegetation and waterway enhancement was supported, but needed to be addressed within the context of landholder values and aspirations and not simply in isolation.

The suggested actions from these workshops are presented in terms of physical activities (table 5) and activities aimed at engaging people (table 6). Some activities identified have already been supported by the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project in the past. However there are several new activities that have been identified. Within each activity, recognition of where emphasis should be directed is listed.

The activities presented were ranked based on a whole of catchment importance. This type of ranking is biased against issues that are only relevant in part of the catchment such as salinity or erosion control. Therefore the ranking is used by the executive committee as a guide only and all issues listed are considered necessary to address.

The workshops also examine how the issues identified should be approached. The responses from participants provided confirmation to continue some of the approaches used in the past, as well as include several new initiatives. The current approaches to continue with included:

- Access to high quality technical advice, on the farm and by phone
- Financial support to offset cost of trialing and implementation
- Maintaining a simple planning, approval and claims process
- Opportunities to learn and share information, from 'experts' and from each other.

Two new approaches were also identified

- Provide opportunities for 'rewards' from adopting sound environmental practices
- Become more proactive in targeting non participants (public and private) to encourage them to become involved.

Table 5: Physical activities identified by participants

Existing activity	New activity	Emphasis for action
Weeds & vermin		Renew focus on common weeds, with priority on joint action at the public (crown land and roadsides) / private land boundary. Examine alternative weed control techniques and prevent spread of new and emerging weeds.
Pastures / Grazing		Pasture and grazing system persistence and adapting to climate change (drought proofing).
Trees		Continued on farm revegetation (plantations and waterways) but exploit other opportunities for trees such as greenhouse and timber.
	Water management	Optimising the limited water resource, including more efficient collection, retention and movement of water.
Waterway & remnant vegetation protection		Continued protection work, with follow up activities to control weeds and pests.
Soil management • Erosion • Salinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological and physical 'health' of the soil • Matching farm practices to land capability 	Continued erosion and salinity activities but increased investigation into improving soil 'health' (alternative fertilisers, ameliorants, manures, biological additives) and land capability planning.
	Climate change and enterprise suitability	Information on the potential effects of climate change and enterprise suitability. Explore opportunities to value adding to existing products (eg new markets, new uses for products, greater production chain processing etc), reducing costs and alternative products.
	Cropping	Integrating cropping enterprises more effectively into the existing farm business.

Table 6: People related activities identified by participants

Existing activity	New activity	Emphasis
	Public land managers	Get public land managers to take equal responsibility and duty of care to private land managers.
	Involving neighbours	Being proactive in contacting neighbours and inviting them to become involved either with social events, information sessions or works. Greater use of 'experts'.
Engagement with groups		Continued with neighbourhood groups but increase opportunities for social interaction and exchange of ideas (farm walks, presentations).
Engagement with individuals		Continued one on one individual contact on farm but with people of high expertise. Increase use of 'rewards' to recognise good practice, especially in partnership with local government

5.3 The 2008–2012 five year Woody Yaloak Action Plan

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group exists to:

motivate and enable landholders and the wider community to improve the productive, environmental and social well being of the Woody Yaloak catchment and its people.

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group vision is:

A catchment community managing the natural resources to sustain business viability and meet community expectations.

The outcomes the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group wish to achieve are:

- Viable businesses
- A community capable of engaging and managing change
- Businesses and lifestyles that operate within the capacity of the catchment
- Protection and enhancement of the natural resources in the catchment.

The operation of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group is based on the following beliefs:

- Landscape change will only be achieved if the majority of landholders choose to participate and to contribute their own resources, skills and time
- Voluntary participation needs to be sustained over many decades
- The cost of landscape change should be shared by those who gain benefit from the improvement, both landholders and the public
- Investment in activities that enables an individuals to continue to meet that cost is legitimate

- Production and conservation activities are linked and are not mutually exclusive
- 'Having a go' and sharing the results of these actions with others is the best way to gain skills, confidence and drive innovation
- Respecting the interests of an individual is as equally important to address as the priorities of a third party as this sustains a relationship
- The easier it is to participate, the more likely an individual will commit.

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Project is designed around these beliefs.

Deciding which issues to address

In recent years, Regional, State and Federal Governments have adopted a prioritization process to guide investment. This is referred to as an asset based approach, where a value is placed on various parcels of land, water, flora, fauna, infrastructure and cultural heritage. Priority is given to removing the threat posed to the most highly valued assets. Lower priority activities tend not to receive resourcing through this process.

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group adopts a different approach to investment. People are considered the most valuable asset in the catchment. Without the consent and involvement of people, changes in practice will not occur. The greatest threat to the people asset is failing to successfully engage with them. With the mission of improving, business, the environment and the people into the future, investment is based on **maximizing participation in activities** and helping to **develop an individual's capacity and desire to maintain ongoing investment**. There are several reasons for this approach.

Firstly the task to improve the condition of natural resources in the Woody Yaloak catchment is huge. After 15 years of activity and investment of \$7.7 million mainly from landholders, as well as governments and private sponsors, there is still an enormous amount to do. Several more decades of sustained investment will be required to achieve a landscape change.

The majority of landholders in the Woody Yaloak catchment are farmers, who derive part or all of their living from agriculture or associated activities. Their ability to invest in rehabilitation of the natural resources on their land and in the catchment is strongly linked to the profitability of their business. Viable businesses are a cornerstone of sustained participation and investment. Failure to improve the productivity and profitability of farms in the catchment will reduce a landholders ability to invest in rehabilitation and enhancement work. This is less of an issue for landholders who derive significant income from elsewhere.

Secondly the majority of the work needs to occur on private land and with the permission and support of the landholders. These landholders not only have to provide the majority of the resources to do the task, whether it is money, use of equipment or labour, but they also have to choose to be involved. Unless an inclusive, rewarding and positive atmosphere is created, many individuals will decide not to participate.

Participation is not only essential to get rehabilitation work completed, but it also increases the number of people sharing ideas and providing peer support, encouragement and motivation. This increases the skills and confidence to maintain activity and try new approaches.

Thirdly the natural resource management issues are not distributed evenly across the landscape. Not every landholder has a major waterway running through their property,

few have endangered native vegetation and only some have weed, erosion or salinity problems. Just because they don't have one or more of these issues, we do not believe they should be excluded for participating if they wish to undertake revegetation or landscape enhancement activities. Any individual who wishes to take action that will improve the land, vegetation and water, by whatever amount, should be supported.

Therefore all actions identified by participants in the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project that fit our charter are considered important and all efforts will be made to support their successful implementation.

Actions and targets over the next five years

The actions to be undertaken in the next five years are detailed in the Woody Yaloak Action Plan (2008 – 2012). Copies are available from the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group or at www.woodyyaloak.com.au. The broad areas of on ground activity are:

- Weeds & vermin control
- Pastures & grazing
- Trees & shrubs
- Surface water management
- Waterway and remnant vegetation protection
- Soil management
- Enterprise and product suitability due to climate change
- Cropping

The broad areas of community development are:

- Engagement with public land managers
- Involving neighbours
- Engagement with groups
- Engagement with individuals

Internal operation, communication and monitoring

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group will maintain the current executive committee structure and portfolio areas. Paid employees will be required to provide executive support to the committee (and sub committee) to minimise the workload on volunteers.

The Woody Yaloak Catchment Group will maintain a strong communication focus aimed both internally and to a wider audience using newsletters, website, annual reports, workshops and seminars, hosting tours and neighbourhood gatherings and planning events.

The Group will also continue to develop innovative and practical ways of measuring activity performance and the change in natural resources across the landscape. Monitoring activities will include an independent GIS system, independent audit of the financial status of the group and meeting the reporting obligations to various investors. Greater emphasis will be placed on developing and monitoring indicators that demonstrate changes in catchment health such as changes in vegetation cover and type, changes in key aspects of the index of stream condition, trends in water quality and a 10 year audit of business viability and attitudes around investment in natural resource management.

Investment partners

The diversity of activities identified in the action plan will require support from a range of partners. Given the different investment philosophy of the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group to Government, some activities will necessitate support from organizations other than the traditional Government funded programs. Considerable effort will be directed towards attracting funds from non traditional sources such as philanthropic trusts, private sponsors and agricultural industry groups.

Implementation costs

The estimated cost of achieving the 5 year targets is \$ 3.7 million. \$550,000 is assigned to community development initiatives and \$650,000 to co-ordination, facilitation, technical advice and capacity building. Approximately \$2.0 million is assigned to on ground works, comprising \$1.2 million from landholders and \$800,000 from external funding.

Appendix 1: Recipients of funding (2007) –Astrix indicates a claim in 2006

Alexander	Marwood
Birmingham	McBeath
Bodman	McKenzie, C*
Boland	McKenzie, D
Brumby	McKenzie, G*
Carr, J	McRoberts
Cellante, N	Mellington, P
Chenery	Missen, B
Cooke*	Missen, T*
Dales Landcare group*	Mitchell*
Donovan	Phillips
Edgar*	Puddicombe
Everist, P	Sanders
Fagg, L	Stabeusz, K
Fagg, S	Stewart G*
Farey, P*	Walton, A*
Fay, D	Wilkie*
Featherston	Wilson
Fraser, P	
Guy, S*	
Haddons Lions Club	
Hadler*	
Harding, G	
Heatly, A	
Holding, M	
Jones, R	
Justice	
Kennedy, R	
Kerr, I*	
Kerr, M*	
Knight*	
Laffan	
Long	

Appendix 2: Woody Yaloak Catchment Project Inc.

Executive Committee - 2007

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
Jane Archer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication / publicity 	Rokewood
John Carr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance (Chair) • Strategic partnerships 	Rokewood
David Coutts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication / publicity 	Pittong Hoyles Creek
Peter Donovan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity 	Misery Moonlight
Peter Everist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships • Finance 	Dales & Haddon
Alice Knight (past chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships (Chair) • Finance • Communication / publicity (chair) 	Pittong Hoyles Creek
Kevin Knight (past past Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance 	Pittong Hoyles Creek
Daniel Laffan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On ground works (Chair) • Productivity 	Grenville
Col McKenzie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity (chair) • On ground works 	Misery Moonlight
Craig Mitchell (Resigned March 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On ground works • Productivity 	Werneth
Vacant		Werneth
CCMA representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships 	Corangamite CMA
Alcoa representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships • Communications 	Alcoa Australia
DPI representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships 	DPI

Appendix 3: Financial statements

WOADY YALOAK CATCHMENT GROUP INC INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	NOTE	2007 \$	2006 \$
INCOME			
Woody Yaloak Catchment Improvement Fund		5,000.00	1,420.00
Drought Assistance	1	4,954.54	-
Grants		327,876.71	350,914.35
Interest		9,566.03	5,813.44
Levies		2,745.61	6,326.44
Sponsorship	2	4,800.00	-
Sundry Income		250.11	770.00
TOTAL INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		355,193.00	365,244.23
EXPENSES			
Administration		-	379.09
Annual Report		3,245.00	3,195.00
Audit & Accounting Fees		2,760.00	2,750.00
Catering/Functions		5,181.82	1,138.04
Contracts/Salaries		96,135.57	110,702.07
Depreciation		1,452.00	2,199.00
On Ground Works		201,658.91	155,970.44
Hire of Equipment		287.40	1,520.00
Insurance		853.63	248.30
Refund of Unspent Grant		-	7,000.00
Sundry Expense		890.91	690.05
Training		1,000.00	-
TOTAL EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		313,465.24	285,791.99
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		41,727.76	79,452.24
TOTAL CHANGES IN MEMBERS' EQUITY		41,727.76	79,452.24

Note 1: Once off payment for drought relief activities

Note 2: Grants from Australia Post, Alcoa, Second Generation Landcare

WOODY YALOAK CATCHMENT GROUP INC
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
CBA Cheque Account	446,680.34	493,791.61
CBA Term Deposit 6856	33,483.88	31,373.73
CBA Term Deposit 7779	43,941.60	40,842.14
CBA Improvement Fund	5,207.65	-
Sundry Debtors	660.19	32,069.89
GST Receivable	5,109.31	4,080.01
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	535,082.97	602,157.38
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Computer Equipment	1,063.00	1,771.00
Field Equipment	2,991.00	3,735.00
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	4,054.00	5,506.00
TOTAL ASSETS	539,136.97	607,663.38
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade Creditors	42,926.05	22,905.34
Grants Received in Advance	331,641.65	461,916.53
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	374,567.70	484,821.87
TOTAL LIABILITIES	374,567.70	484,821.87
NET ASSETS	164,569.27	122,841.51
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY		
Accumulated Surplus	164,569.27	122,841.51

WOADY YALOK CATCHMENT GROUP INC
EQUIPMENT SCHEDULE
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT			DEP		
Item	Purchase cost	Opening price	rate (%)	Amount	Closing price
Software*	3,500	163	40	65	98
Data projector	5,695	266	40	106	159
Digital Camera (2)	512	110	40	44	66
Photo scanner	326	70	40	28	42
Computer 2	1,064	383	40	153	230
Laptop computer 2	2,164	779	40	312	467
		1,771		708	1,063
Machinery					
Bait layers (4)*	4,800	1,258	20	252	1,007
Carrot cutter*	600	157	20	31	126
Ripper*	1,500	456	18	82	374
Gas guns (2)*	500	89	25	22	67
Protective helmets (2)*	150	27	25	7	20
Direct seeding machine & trailer*	5,000	1,311	20	262	1,049
Spray unit	1,677	437	20	87	350
		3,735		744	2,991
TOTAL EQUIPMENT				1,452	4,054

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

