

# Sustainable Land Management and Farmer Networks in Australia

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# Landcare in Australia

- Community based grass roots movement since 1950s
- Start and support by government in 1986
- Official start 1989 of the *not-for-profit organisation*

• ISCO 1996 : Bonn, Germany: *Landcare Australia the most successful examples of community based sustainable land management organisation*

- In AU only: 6000 groups with over 100,000 volunteers
- Landcare model now used in over 20 countries



# What is it about?

Caring for land and water that sustains us

- Empowering individuals and communities
  - Sustainable management of natural and productive landscapes
  - Building resilient ecosystems and communities
- ➔ Community action: **bottom up and not top down!**

- Integrated land management
- Environmental protection and natural habitat restoration
- Farming system resilience
- Social cohesion



# How does it work?

- Community based projects
- Sharing
- Webinars, seminars, training programs
- Social media event
- Field days
- Conferences
- Landcare awards
- Volunteering



# How to pay for it?

- Fundraisers
- Landcare Grants
- State or Federal
- Government initiatives
  - Natural Heritage Trust
  - Carbon farming initiatives
  - Future Drought fund
- Local commercial opportunities
- **Private Public Partnerships PPPs**

➔ Think outside the box



*They come and go*

# The Emu Creek Landcare Group

- Weed eradication programs (Lantana)
- Remnant vegetation management
- Erosion management strategy
- Community based farming equipment
  - Lime spreader
  - Contour banks grader



# What makes it work

- Good leadership – having a champion
- Good communication skills and community standing
- Ability to prepare applications – address donor priorities
- Group coherence: do what you say you would do
- Budget accountability

➔ Reputation for future funding



# International Landcare

- ACIAR Landcare in the Philippines, 1990s (soil erosion)
- World Agroforestry, Landcare International (LI) since 2004
  - Landcare Kenya ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqzmzEao4\\_GY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqzmzEao4_GY))
  - Total Land Care (TLC), Malawi since 1999



- Uganda Landcare Network (ULN)



- Chiang Mai, Thailand - Elephant Nature Park

