

NEW SPRINGS LANDCARE GROUP

Ordinary Meeting 12 May 2026 at 513 Warmington Run

AGENDA

1. MEETING OPEN 7.20pm

- Welcome and apologies
 - ATTENDANCE
 - Karen Ashford (Secretary and acting chair)
 - Jenice Buchecker (committee)
 - Judith McCallum (committee)
 - Steve Buchecker
 - Warren Coombes
 - Karen Rief
 - Dymphna Sprod
 - Anna Kakoschke
 - Rob Kakoschke
 - Kathy Szalay
 - Phil Eakins
 - Neil Carr
 - APOLOGIES
 - Kym Gladigau (Chair)
 - Steve Perkins (deputy Chair)
 - Steve Wright (Treasurer)
 - Heidi Sowerby
 - Will Hannaford
 - Hayden Schultz
 - Tammi Collins
 - Kate Constable
 - Lisa Eakins
 - Michele Edwards
 - Paul Edwards
 - Russell Schubert
 - Jo Carr
 - Wayne Hein
 - GUESTS
 - Donna Bartsch - LandscapeSA

CHAIR welcome and thank everyone for their attendance.

1. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTIONS

- Previous minutes of meeting held March as circulated by email. Chair asked that they be accepted.

MOTION Moved: **Warren Coombes** Seconded: **Jenice Buchecker** Passed.

- General update on behalf of the chair
 - tree planting project – thank all who assisted, great turn out, **Alex Pomery** has been watering the seedlings, but probably won't need to now, **Kym Gladigau** inspected during the week and they're looking healthy.

2. Report from Treasurer

- Treasurer absent tonight – no change in financials since last meeting.

3. Report from Secretary

- DEW has flagged changes to the Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation plan, as the current plan is no longer suited to the region's changing conditions. The landscape board is holding a series of 'catchment conversations' including sessions focused on the Onkaparinga (Mylor May 25), Upper Angas and Bremer (Mt Barker 10 June), and Torrens (Gumeracha 24 June).

4. Guest Speaker – **Donna Bartsch**, Landscapes SA: optiweigh update.

Optiweigh has been well received – cattle and sheep unit being shared across region for three month periods. Just moved to 4th property. Some trialling with pasture grazing – learning as much about pasture as they are about their livestock. Is the pasture in best condition or being properly grazed etc. hoping to get case studies written up soon. Cattle also used for containment feed management, to monitor growth. Cattle unit just moved to Sellicks Hill – **Michael Wilkes** is booked for a workshop in June ...genetic considerations, health consideration and ag tech opportunities. Welcome to attend. Have two more years of project with unit to keep rotating and more workshops.

Steve Buchecker says there's one beef grower who used optiweight to improve his return, and it was the equivalent of the unit paying for itself in a single season. Units cost \$20K so an offset grant might be viable for larger properties but difficult for smaller ones. Borrowing or hiring might be a solution.

Rob Kakoschke asked if there is a government assessment available for pastures which aren't performing.

Donna doesn't believe SARDI/PIRSA have that resource yet. But optiweigh is certainly shedding light on the need for pasture analysis.

The optiweigh company is investing in the analysis technology, considering integrating cameras for visual assessments, and incorporating AI. Possibly methane monitors. So, it's improving and finding significant support. She says Landscapes SA is currently planning for future projects – brainstorming drought ag funding, smart ag tech – so if here are any new ideas please reach out.

Further updates:

- Workshops happening under smart ag program – stickybeak property tour of 83 acres of revegetation at Lenswood 4th June.
- understanding your soil test workshops at end of June (23rd and 24th)
- Dr **Mary Cole** from Victoria is visiting – soil microbiologist, and composting to control capeweed. 25th and 26th June.
- catchment conversations – opportunity find out info about possible changes, to share ideas and local knowledge, and raise issues and concerns.
- 9th June Southern Fleurieu management action plan
- next financial year will be rolling out more workshops – weed, reveg, soils, property visits. Landscapes would welcome idea for topics and speakers.

5. Any Other Business

Dymphna discussed a future grassroots grant for riparian waterway declared woody weed management on her property and adjacent crown land and council land, in liaison with her neighbours. Part is a roadside reserve, and some is a waterway. 100 m long by 30 m wide. 1-2 days of mulching is required according to a quote. Council permits etc. as part of grant. Believes there would be more success as a group grant and highlighting the other works along that stretch of waterway. Group support particularly with restoration works would be valued.

Steve Buchecker says Dave Elliott is into compost tea. He also spoke with Kym Gladigau about the planting session, and they agreed it was a good project for uniting and inspiring the group.

Web update from **secretary** – The New Springs site is taking shape. Content is being loaded, and the site is now ready for activation by **Steve Perkins**. Membership functionality is included – and this might be a good time for New Springs to think about attracting younger members. **Neil Carr** says in his cattle group, social media is proving a more popular communication channel than websites when it comes to younger people.

Next meeting: **Tuesday July 7, 2026** – special guest speaker is **Jeremy Nelson**, who will be discussing recent changes to the landscapes weather network

Meeting close 8.19pm