



## CLEA: Community Learning for Environmental Action

*Peer learning and mentoring  
across community environment groups*



### Tools for peer learning and mentoring

CLEA (Community Learning for Environmental Action) is a 3 year Victorian Landcare Council project, funded by the Natural Resources Conservation League, to support peer learning and mentoring between grassroots environment groups. CLEA aims to:

- develop a suite of peer learning and mentoring processes that are low cost and easy to use
- test these processes within the Landcare community
- create web-based mechanisms to facilitate peer learning and provide links to Landcare knowledge.

CLEA's particular focus is knowledge and skills for *organising* community action, *collaborating* with partners, and *influencing* decision makers.

Regional Landcare communities are invited to draw on and trial the processes CLEA is developing:

- *Set Your Learning Focus/Call on Your Network*. Worksheets for individuals and groups
- *Questions Without Easy Answers* to open up inquiry on an issue
- *Stories from the Frontline, with Lessons Learned*
- *The Winds of Innovation* - people doing new things in Landcare
- *I Need Help*, trialling ways to connect to groups/networks to Landcare expertise.
- *Access All Areas* - talk up the line to regional, State and Federal level about support for local initiative.

To discuss how you can use these resources, call Ross Colliver, 0411 226 519, [ross.colliver@bigpond.com](mailto:ross.colliver@bigpond.com).

See what's happening at [the CLEA website](https://sites.google.com/site/landcareplanning/home), <https://sites.google.com/site/landcareplanning/home>.

Read [the CLEA Discussion Paper](http://www.vlc.org.au/clea-project) on the VLC website, <http://www.vlc.org.au/clea-project>.

For ideas on how CLEA can support what regional Landcare communities want to do with the VLC's DOE funding, turn the page.

## How can the CLEA project support regional Landcare development?

Activity	How CLEA can support this
1. Gather examples of best practice from around the region.	<p>A list—of best practice, of resources or of innovation—is a starting point for telling a <i>Story</i> (the how and why of what you do), and sharing <i>Lessons Learned</i> (from what you say in your Story) for others to call on.</p> <p>In Landcare, we're good at generating stories that keep funders happy, but what about stories of the nitty-gritty of organising community action, influencing decision makers, and setting up collaboration where Landcare is understood and respected?</p>
2. Develop a list of useful resources groups and networks have created that could be shared.	<p>The challenge is to use authentic voices, present stories vividly and concisely, using minimal resources for production, and then get the stories out and about across the Landcare community. Look <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a> for examples of how Stories and Lessons Learned might be communicated.</p> <p>One way to stimulate good story-telling is to know the questions you want answers to, the <a href="#">Questions Without Easy Answers</a>, not the questions with obvious answers. Give these questions as much profile as our answers, and stories will circulate. So when gathering stories, learn how to gather Questions Without Easy Answers.</p>
3. Gather a list of stories that showcase innovative approaches used by groups and networks.	<p>Another secret to good story-telling is production. Yes, you've lived it, you can talk about it, but how do you put it into 3 minutes of video, or 8 minutes of audio, or a blog post that touches the key points in a few paragraphs?</p> <p>We're sophisticated consumers of media these days. If we really want to make more of the Landcare knowledge that grows up in different communities and landscapes, we need to learn how to produce good stories at low cost. If you're a writer, photographer or videographer, maybe you want to be part of this.</p>
4. Identify and list gaps in currently available training options for groups, networks and staff.	<p>Once you have a list of training needs, consider how learning with your peers could help.</p> <p><i>Set Your Learning Focus/Call on Your Network</i> are worksheets for individuals and groups to decide the current focus of their learning, and to work out who in their networks will support them. We can double the rate of learning in Landcare by using our personal networks to support our learning.</p> <p>CLEA can run sessions on how to bring these two simple tools into your group, network or regional Landcare meetings.</p> <p>Then, if you simply can't find someone to help you, perhaps it's time to put up your hand and say <i>I Need Help!</i> Ask us, and we'll search our networks for someone who can.</p>

To discuss any of these resources, and how you can make them part of developing Landcare in your region, call Ross Colliver, 0411 226 519, or email [ross.colliver@bigpond.com](mailto:ross.colliver@bigpond.com).



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