Southern New England Landcare

A gift to care for our land



Bequests to Southern New England Landcare Ltd

Supporting local people caring for land, water and biodiversity

Bequests to Southern New England Landcare create a lasting legacy, helping to safeguard the long-term care of our farms, bushland, rivers, and local communities for generations to come.

From the Chair

For more than three decades, Southern New England Landcare Ltd has fostered grassroots environmental action across our region. What began as a small network of neighbours joining forces to care for their land has evolved into a highly respected,not-for-profit movement dedicated to sustainable landscapes, resilient communities and thriving ecosystems.

Our strength lies in collaboration. Farmers, landholders, Traditional Custodians, local councils, researchers, agency staff, contractors and volunteers work side by side, guided by shared values of stewardship and respect for the land and water that sustains us all. Through countless on-ground projects regenerating farmland, restoring waterways, rehydrating landscapes, sustaining agriculture, improving biodiversity, managing invasive species, and building climate resilience, our members have demonstrated what community-led conservation can achieve.

Southern New England Landcare continues to champion for innovation and local knowledge, supporting people who proudly take responsibility for the natural assets of the Southern New England region. We celebrate a long history of collective action and look to a positive future, nurturing new generations of Landcarers to ensure that our community's farmland, natural environments and communities flourish in perpetuity.

Together, we are proof that when people care for their land, they care for our collective future.

Emeritus Professor Nick Reid FRSN
Chair, Southern New England Landcare Ltd



Current challenges in our region

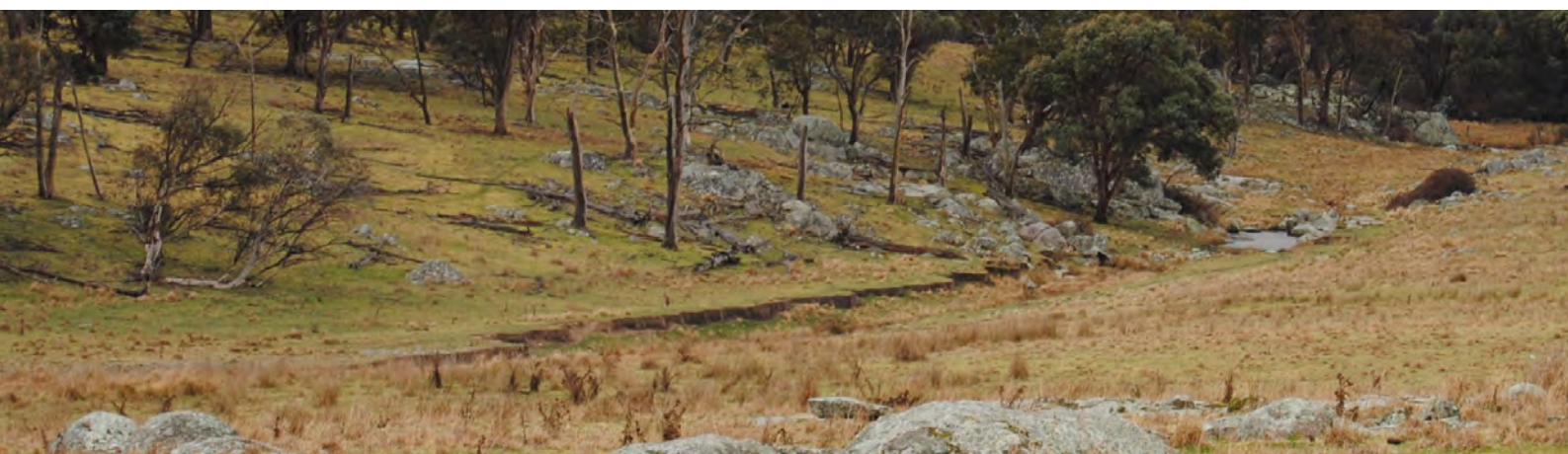
The Southern New England region faces a mix of environmental pressures that are increasingly linked. Climate variability is bringing more erratic rainfall, hotter weather and longer dry spells, which can reduce soil moisture, affect river flows, and place stress on farms and natural systems.

Biodiversity is also under pressure as habitats are fragmented, invasive species spread, and sensitive ecosystems such as wetlands and bushland becoming less resilient. Soil and water health are challenged by erosion, nutrient loss, changing hydrology and microbiology, and declining water availability, all of which affect productivity and ecosystem function.

These environmental shifts affect our people and places. Communities depend on healthy landscapes for farming, clean water and recreation, but families are having to adapt to more uncertainty, greater fire and flood risk, and rising costs of restoration and management. Building community resilience now means working together to care for land and water while supporting local knowledge, stewardship and long-term adaptation.

Gifts in wills can help:

- *Support member capacity, training and leadership*
- *Fund on-ground restoration and regenerative agriculture projects*
- *Back innovation and youth engagement in Landcare.*



A bequest is a powerful way to honour your values beyond your lifetime and support long-term environmental stewardship.

A gift of any size can contribute to lasting positive change.

How your bequest can help

A gift in your will is one of the most effective ways to support long-term care of our farms, waterways and bushland. It gives Southern New England Landcare the flexibility to back the people and projects that will make the biggest difference over time. Your bequest can help build the capacity of local Landcarers, support innovation and ensure the knowledge and passion in this region is passed on.

Bequests to Southern New England Landcare Ltd may be used to:

- Grow scholarship-style funds such as the John Winter-Irving Bequest, enabling more local leaders, students or project champions to receive support
- Seed new initiatives in areas like regenerative agriculture, biodiversity restoration, and youth and Aboriginal engagement in Landcare
- Provide funding in response to challenges, such as drought, fire, flood and emerging environmental issues.

By directing your gift to Southern New England Landcare Ltd, you ensure that your legacy will serve this landscape and community. The Board of Southern New England Landcare Ltd carefully considers how each bequest is managed and may allocate it to existing funds, or to new programs reflecting your intentions and the region's needs.



Types of gifts in wills

There are several types of gifts you can leave in a will, including:

- Percentage gift (a percentage of the whole estate).
- Residual gift (a percentage of the remainder of the estate after all specific gifts, debts, and expenses have been paid).
- Specific amount.
- Specific asset (e.g., property or shares), noting that the Board of Southern New England Landcare Ltd will consider whether it can appropriately accept non-cash gifts.

You may also elect to direct a gift to:

- General landcare work in the region, or
- The John Winter-Irving Bequest fund or a similar fund, as determined by the Board.

The best option depends on your personal circumstances and wishes. Because wills and estates can be complex, it is important that you seek advice from your solicitor or qualified advisor to ensure that any gift in your will is appropriate for your circumstances and valid under current law. Southern New England Landcare does not provide legal or financial advice.

A bequest can direct funds to emerging environmental priorities such as revegetation, biodiversity conservation, threatened-species protection, soil restoration, waterway health and sustainable land management.

Recognition and stewardship

All gifts to Southern New England Landcare Ltd will be carefully stewarded and directed where possible, according to the donor's intentions. Options include:

- Public recognition:
  - Listing in an honour roll
  - Recognition at special events or field days
  - Named awards or funds where appropriate.
- Anonymity.



A bequest to Southern New England Landcare Ltd helps ensure future generations can continue caring for farms, bushland, rivers, and local landscapes.

You will help build a healthier and more resilient future for the places you love.

A guide to making a bequest

When including a gift to Southern New England Landcare Ltd in your will, you may wish to use wording similar to the examples below, in consultation with your advisor/solicitor as required:

- For a general bequest to support Southern New England Landcare's work:

  "I give [the rest and residue / X% of my estate / the sum of $X / description of asset] to Southern New England Landcare Ltd (ABN 42 099 357 454), to be used for its general purposes in the Southern New England region, and I declare that the receipt of the authorised officer of the organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors."

- For a bequest with a preference for scholarship-style support (such as the John Winter-Irving Bequest):

  "I give [the rest and residue / X% of my estate / the sum of $X / description of asset] to Southern New England Landcare Ltd (ABN 42 099 357 454), with the wish (but without creating a binding trust) that the funds be used, where possible, to support scholarship-style grants, leadership development or similar initiatives, including but not limited to the John Winter Irving Bequest, as determined by the Board of Directors. The receipt of the authorised officer of the organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors."

Your solicitor may also suggest alternative wording depending on your estate structure and whether you prefer to give a specific amount, a percentage, or the residue of your estate. If you are considering a more complex gift or a named fund, Southern New England Landcare welcomes a confidential conversation so we can clearly understand and record your intentions.





Southern New England Landcare

ABN: 42 099 357 454

REGISTERED CHARITY · acnc.gov.au/charityregister

Your legacy, our land, their future



Contact Information

e: ceo@snelandcare.org.au

t: (02) 6772 9123

Unit 4/121 Allingham St

Armidale NSW 2350