

# Victorian Rabbit Action Network





**Victorian Rabbit Action Network Inc.  
Annual Report 2020/21**

**Acknowledgement**

This report has been written by the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) with sponsorship from the Department of Agriculture and Resources and Agriculture Victoria. VRAN would like to thank all those who supported VRAN and participated in their programs.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The authors acknowledge the Aboriginal Traditional Owners within Victoria, their rich culture and their spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in the management of natural resources.

**Disclaimer**

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this report is accurate. The Victorian Rabbit Action Network does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or other consequence that may arise from relying on any information in this report.  
Design: Heidi Kleinert  
Thank you to all the photographers who donated their images.

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# About Us

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The primary aim of VRAN is to see feral rabbits gone from the Victorian landscape. The way we do that is to provide the tools and networks to enable community, industry and government to implement best practice management in the control of feral rabbits.

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## Goal of VRAN

The Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) will be a catalyst for change in how rabbit management occurs in Victoria.

By 'helping people, help the land', VRAN aims to create a strong collaborative culture in Victoria whereby local communities are able to successfully manage rabbits in their area through partnerships with land managers, industry and institutions.

To achieve this goal, VRAN is focused on identifying and responding to opportunities to support communities and institutions to be knowledgeable and capable to deal with rabbits wherever they occur across Victoria.

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## Our Five Key Goals

- To **Support** collaborative, community led action for more effective and sustainable rabbit control in Victoria.
- To **Increase** land managers awareness and use of best practice rabbit management.
- To **Increase** community participation & effectiveness in on-ground rabbit control.
- To **Establish** a state-wide network of rabbit management experts across community, industry, science and government.
- To **Extend** reach and build state-wide leadership and expertise in sustained rabbit management.

# Chair's Report

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Our contribution to  
community led action

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## Welcome Everyone

This is the second Annual Report of the Victorian Rabbit Action Network since becoming an incorporated association on 4 June 2020. I would like to thank the existing Committee members, Kaye Rodden, Lyn Coulston, Neil Devanny and Geoff McFarlane, who generously volunteer their time.

Thank you also for the ongoing support from our government representatives Chelsea Vercoe (Agriculture Victoria), Mel Corry and Mark Whyte (Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning), Ben Fahey and Tina Konstantinidis (Parks Victoria).

I wish to acknowledge the VRAN Mentors, Tim Bloomfield, Brad Spear, Neil Devanny, Geoff McFarlane, Peter Barnes, John Matthews and Tom Miller, who help members and stakeholders from across community, industry and government with a wide range of enquiries on best practice and collaboration.



Special thanks to Heidi Kleinert, Jason Wishart and Nigel Roberts at Agriculture Victoria for the support to the learning network program. Heidi is also Executive Officer, and I thank her for the wonderful work she has done on behalf of VRAN.

Also, it is important to acknowledge friends of VRAN, Lisa Adams, Ted Alter, Andrew Woolnough, Michael Reid and Lauren Hull who continue to advocate for democratic practice and a community-led approach to managing rabbits.

VRAN continues to support four Learning Networks with seventy members and would like to thank all the participants who are involved in the initiative as well as the community grant program participants.

# Chair's Report



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## Community Resilience & Partnerships

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Recent events, including bushfires, drought and COVID-19 have placed substantial strain on individuals and communities. The long term impact of these adversities on the mental health of those individuals and communities may be something which requires our attention, on the basis that if ignored, it may detrimentally impact on our capacity to deliver our programs.

When VRAN won the United Nations Award in 2019, I said at the time that its best years were still ahead. I still believe that and VRAN is actively seeking new partners to enable it to continue building on the success which has come through the support of Agriculture Victoria and the Australian Government's Agriculture Competitiveness White Paper.

The VRAN Rabbit Strategy will guide our work over the next year, with the main goal being to secure our future with ongoing funding to enable VRAN to continue to deliver programs that support community capacity, collaboration and effective rabbit management, which will help people help the land.

Along with other Community Pest Management Groups (CPMG's), we have been involved in the Future Direction Report for community led management of established pests in Victoria.

The encouragement of Agriculture Victoria leaders including Katherine Clift, Executive Director Biosecurity Services and Sharyn Williams, Director Plants Chemicals and Invasives gives me confidence that the partnership between Agriculture Victoria and VRAN will endure for the foreseeable future.

The ideal recipe for a future successful program delivery by VRAN is most likely to come from a public/private partnership. VRAN is certainly making every effort to make that happen.

Finally, I wish to thank Kaye Rodden for the significant contribution she has made to VRAN and Agriculture Victoria projects since VRAN's inception in 2014 and its progression to an incorporation association. Her legacy will continue in the implementation of VRAN frameworks, strategies and communication material and her involvement in receiving the United Nations award will never be forgotten.

We thank Kaye for her endless dedication and leadership in community led action against pests in Victoria and I know that I speak on behalf of you all in wishing Kaye all the best for her future.

*G.W. Leach*  
**GERALD LEACH**  
CHAIR



# Treasurer's Report

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We want to extend our reach and increase our impact

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For the period ending 30 June 2021:

- Revenue received \$0.00
- Total Expenditure \$206,002.89

The financial report of the Victorian Rabbit Action Network Incorporated has been audited by Surfcoast Taxation Services Pty Ltd, ACN 097 406 472. The full audit report is available on request.

VRAN received grant funding from the Agriculture Victoria and the Australian Government's Agriculture Competitiveness White Paper to implement programs from 2016–2021.

VRAN has secured investment funding and Executive Officer support from Agriculture Victoria to continue building on the legacy of projects delivered under the White Paper Program in 2021/22.

The goal of 2021–22 will be to boost the investment stream from new partners to continue the implementation of the VRAN Rabbit Strategy, to extend our reach and increase our impact.

VRAN are currently focusing on securing investment for the following programs:

- Leadership in Rabbit Management – Rabbit Bootcamp
- Learning Network
- Mentoring Program
- Educational Resources
- Community Grants



*Geoff McFarlane*

**GEOFF MCFARLANE**  
TREASURER

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# Financial Statement



Victorian Rabbit Action Network

## Balance sheet report

30 Jun 2021

	Total
<b>1-0000 Assets</b>	
1-1110 Bendigo Acc - 0950	13,835.36
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>13,835.36</b>
<b>2-0000 Liabilities</b>	
2-3001 GST Balance	(13,007.99)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(13,007.99)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>26,843.35</b>
<b>3-0000 Equity</b>	
3-8000 Retained Earnings	232,798.00
3-9000 Current Year Earnings	(205,954.65)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>26,843.35</b>

Margaret Leigh  
STS Accounting Group  
22 Willis Street  
Winchelsea Vic 3241



# Financial Statement



Victorian Rabbit Action Network

## Profit and loss report

Cash mode

01 Jul 2020 - 30 Jun 2021

	Actual	Total Last Year	Variance \$	Variance %
<b>4-0000 Income</b>				
4-1000 Grants Received	0.00	232,798.00	(232,798.00)	-100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>232,798.00</b>	<b>(232,798.00)</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>232,798.00</b>	<b>(232,798.00)</b>	<b>-100</b>
<b>6-0000 Expenses</b>				
6-1100 Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	1,650.00	0.00	1,650.00	-
6-1200 Advertising & Marketing	26,373.00	0.00	26,373.00	-
6-1600 Mentoring	53,131.29	0.00	53,131.29	-
6-1700 Meeting Expenses	2,388.64	0.00	2,388.64	-
6-1800 Grants - Outgoing	70,967.20	0.00	70,967.20	-
6-1900 Consulting Fees	20,613.15	0.00	20,613.15	-
6-2600 Training Material/Workshops	17,459.93	0.00	17,459.93	-
6-2700 Office Expenses	568.13	0.00	568.13	-
6-3100 Catering, Travel, Accommodation	11,673.82	0.00	11,673.82	-
6-4800 Website Expenses	910.00	0.00	910.00	-
6-7200 Insurance	267.73	0.00	267.73	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>206,002.89</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>206,002.89</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>(206,002.89)</b>	<b>232,798.00</b>	<b>(438,800.89)</b>	<b>-188</b>
<b>8-0000 Other Income</b>				
8-1000 Interest Income	48.24	0.00	48.24	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>48.24</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>48.24</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(205,954.65)</b>	<b>232,798.00</b>	<b>(438,752.65)</b>	<b>-188</b>

Margaret Leigh  
 STS Accounting Group  
 22 Willis Street  
 Winchelsea Vic 3241

# Last Year's Projects

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Our contribution for a better landscape



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## Community Led Action

Below are a sample of VRAN projects delivered in 2020/21:

- Two community grants programs, providing mentor support and over \$70,000 to community capacity building programs
- The development of a new VRAN website and Facebook page
- The design and production of valuable extension resources such as factsheets, guides and videos
- Development of the VRAN strategy video
- Contribution to journal and conference papers, Landcare articles
- Contribution to Agriculture Victoria White Paper Program through membership of the Delivery Leadership Group.

## Leadership in Rabbit Management Course

VRAN held the annual Leadership in Rabbit Management course – Rabbit Bootcamp, this year in Wangaratta, North East Victoria.

We were able to build the knowledge of ten participants in sustainable and effective rabbit management through seminars and in-field demonstrations.

In the short-term, VRAN are seeking to build capacity among landowners, land managers, government and industry to undertake effective rabbit control.

In the medium to long term, the Rabbit Bootcamp's are a key step to increasing land managers' adoption of best practice rabbit management, and increasing the overall level of participation in on-ground rabbit control.

We are looking for partners to support these programs to extend our reach and impact. Contact us if you'd like to be part of the community led action movement.

# Our People

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VRAN is led by a group of community members, government representatives and industry leaders, who with the support of the VRAN Executive Officer, facilitate opportunities and strategies to support community-led rabbit action.

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## Board Members 2020/21

- Gerald Leach, Chair
- Neil Devanny, Vice Chair
- Kaye Rodden, Secretary
- Geoff McFarlane, Treasurer
- Lyn Coulston, Ordinary Member

## Associate Members 2020/21

- Ben Fahey, Associate Member, Parks Victoria
- Chelsea Vercoe, Associate Member, Agriculture Victoria
- Mark Whyte, Associate Member, Department Land, Water & Environment
- Mel Corry, Associate Member, Department Land, Water & Environment
- Heidi Kleinert, Executive Assistant, Agriculture Victoria

## Mentors 2020/21

- Tim Bloomfield
- Brad Spear
- Neil Devanny
- John Matthews
- Peter Barnes
- Geoff McFarlane
- Tom Miller

Our Mentors are industry professionals with experience in effective rabbit control. The mentoring program has been very successful and is growing over-time.

VRAN aim to increase the geographic spread and diversity of our Board Members and Mentors.



# Our Partners

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VRAN works in collaboration with many organisations.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the following partners for their ongoing support:

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## Our Partners

- The three Victorian Community Pest Management Groups; Victorian Blackberry Taskforce, Victorian Gorse Taskforce and Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party
- Landcare Victoria Inc
- Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment
- Agriculture Victoria
- Parks Victoria
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Aboriginal Victoria
- Victorian Traditional Owners
- Local Government partners
- Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
- Department of Primary Industries NSW
- Rabbit Free Australia
- Friends of VRAN



## Grant Recipients

- Ashbourne Landcare Group
- Bamgambie Meredith & District Landcare
- Bass Coast Landcare Network
- Bellarine Landcare Group
- Blampied-Kooroocheang Landcare Group
- Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network
- City of Greater Geelong
- East Gippsland Landcare Network
- Geelong Landcare Network
- Middle Yarra Landcare Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group
- Murrayville Landcare Group
- Surf Coast and Inland Plains Landcare Network
- Upper Barwon Landcare Network
- Warragul & District Urban Landcare Network



Victorian  
Rabbit Action  
Network

[www.vran.com.au](http://www.vran.com.au)