

GWYMAC INC

LANDCARE NETWORK, INVERELL NSW



PROFILE GWYMAC INC. (Gwydir and Macintyre Resources Management Committee) is your local Landcare office in Inverell, Northern NSW. We are a non-profit, community owned organisation, a free service

GWYMAC STAFF



Lee Thompson
CEO & Landcare
Coordinator

LEE has been a Landcare Coordinator since 2013 and enjoys being part of a dedicated and enthusiastic team at Gwymac Landcare. Lee's duties include applying for grant funding, event coordination and management, Gwymac member services, social media management, general Gwymac promotion and advertisement and providing general support to Landcare groups

Qualifications and & Employment History:
Lee has extensive experience in managing large commercial and residential portfolios and front line management. She is a Licensed Real Estate and Business agent and runs a mixed farming operation with her husband and 4 daughters in the Inverell district.

NSW HSC, Diploma in Business, Cert IV Front Line Management, Diploma Real Estate Management.



Byron Norman
Landcare Coordinator

BYRON joined Gwymac as a Landcare Coordinator in April 2023. Byron has been involved in Landcare for a number of years, particularly with the Swanbrook Catchment project with the Muloon Institute, and was President of Swanvale Landcare. Byron loves the atmosphere and working environment that Gwymac provides. Byron's duties include coordinating Landcare group, applying for funding and event coordination and management as well as project management.

Qualifications and & Employment History:
Byron has 20 years experience in the Social Services sector primarily in the Social Housing sector as well as Employment Services. Byron and his family run a mixed livestock operation in the Swanvale area.

Bachelor of Education (UNE), Bachelor of Social Science (UNE), Advanced Diploma Front Line Management, Currently studying Bachelor of Sustainability (Environment) (UNE)





GWYMAC STAFF

{ Landcare groups bring together landholders
with a common interest or issues. }



Nunni Beccu-Portass
Bookkeeper

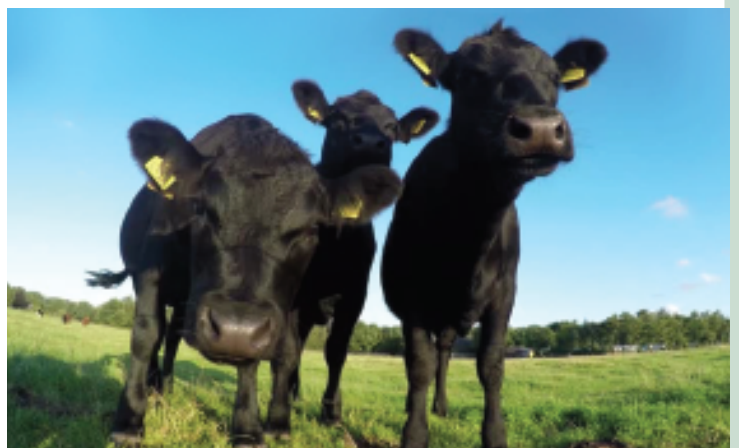
NUNNI is currently employed as Gwymac's Bookkeeper, a role which she has held since 2013. Nunni came to Gwymac with no previous affiliation with Landcare but her forensic accounting abilities were of such value and her understanding of the nature of how Landcare Networks and Projects are devolved is such, that even though she was 'head hunted' by another organisation, she has not been allowed to leave! Nunni is responsible for processing accounts and monthly reporting to the committee.

Education and Qualifications:

Nunni completed her High School Certificate locally with further education completed at TAFE in the areas of Secretarial Studies which developed into an internship with Soil Conservation and with a flair for numbers she became hooked on bookkeeping and accounting duties.

Employment History:

Nunni has worked for numerous local organisations in the capacity of Office Administration with a 12 year stint at Sapphire City Steel only interrupted by entering the family stage. She returned to administrative/bookkeeping duties 13 years ago and Gwymac has been privileged to have her for the last 10years.





GWYMAC COMMITTEE

{ To develop a healthy ecosystem that will
sustain the future needs of our community }



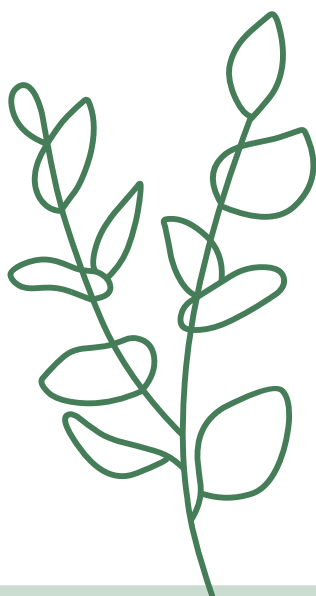
Colin Ritchie
Chair

Colin is a retired Chartered Accountant and financial planner who has lived and worked in Inverell for most of his adult life.

In his professional capacity he has been involved with farmers for the majority of his career and has experienced the highs and lows of rural business from a financial perspective.

Most recently Colin has worked as a business consultant with small business owners, many in rural locations, helping them to “Make the profit they deserve”. He has continued that interest in retirement and presents a short segment on STA-FM each Tuesday around 10am called “Making Money”.

Colin has an interest in the bush and bush regeneration and is a keen birdwatcher having restarted the local birdwatching group. Colin has run birding mornings for Gwymac as well as birdwatching outings and campouts to various areas in the North West of NSW.



Colin Tann
Deputy Chair &
Treasurer

Colin is a retired technical scientist having worked with CSIRO Wildlife and Entomology Divisions for over thirty years.

Colin has been involved in a variety of scientific research projects in Victoria, Tasmania, and New South Wales, mainly focusing on vertebrate and invertebrate pest ecology that has significant relevance to agriculture.

Colin has lived and worked within the small agricultural communities where the relevant studies had been focused.

Colin moved to Inverell three years ago after retirement to be closer to family. Colin has a keen interest in conservation and bush regeneration with an interest in the study of insects, and wildlife in general, and is an experienced bushwalker and a keen naturalist.





GWYMAC COMMITTEE

{ Landcare has become an ethic, whereby land managers work to protect or improve the land for the future. }



Julie Clark
Treasurer

Julie and Colin moved to Inverell from Armidale twelve years ago when they purchased a property at Sapphire. This enterprise involved growing fat lambs, cattle trading, and wool. Julie joined GWYMAC and became an active and involved member of the Nullamanna Landcare group where she was secretary for several years. She has held the position of secretary and president in various other organisations also.

After downsizing, they now own a smaller property closer to town where they raise fat lambs. The farm has a wildlife corridor and koala sightings are a weekly event. Three sightings in the wild spurred a passion for preserving and increasing natural habitats for native flora & fauna.

Julie studied at The University of New England where she gained a Bachelor of Economics with Honours and a Diploma of Education. After tutoring economics at UNE, Julie went on to teach mathematics and science at secondary schools in New South Wales.

Julie also holds First Aid Certificate and Chemical Users Certificate.

Julie has been involved in farming enterprises for thirty-eight years and believes in sustainability and the importance of preserving and improving the land for future generations.



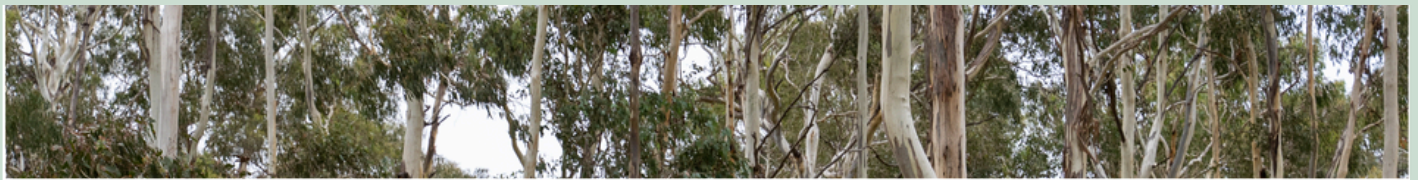
Matt Verri
General Committee
Member

Originally raised on a cattle farm on the eastern fall north of Tenterfield, Matt developed a strong connection to agriculture and rural communities from an early age. After graduating as a veterinarian, he moved to Inverell in 2014 to further his professional career, providing animal health services across the district.

In 2015, Matt and his young family purchased their own property, where they now run a mixed enterprise of sheep and cattle. Matt is particularly passionate about improving soil health, enhancing pasture productivity, and conserving water resources to create a more resilient farming system for future generations.

Keen to continue learning and sharing knowledge, Matt has engaged in a wide range of regenerative agriculture courses and Landcare workshops. His involvement with Landcare has provided him with valuable connections to like-minded landholders, practical tools for improving land management, and opportunities to trial innovative practices on his own farm.





GWYMAC COMMITTEE

{ educate landholders on sustainable land
management and encourage the uptake of
these practices }



Matt Gardner
General Committee Member

Matt is locally born and raised, and has been involved in farming since a young age. Matt grew up at Spring Mountain on the family farm and was involved in all farming practices where a passion for the land and conservation was developed.

Before purchasing his own property, Matt leased and agisted land to run cattle and sheep, working 3 jobs at times to save as much as possible to be able to buy his own block.

Over the past 20 years Matt has developed a beef grazing enterprise in the Nullamanna area and is actively working on improving the property with sustainability and conservation in mind.

Matt is a qualified Mechanic and has worked in various fields but is now a full-time farmer. Matt is passionate about sustainable and regenerative agriculture, attending field days and community information sessions, vermin control, fishing & camping, and is the current President of the Nullamanna Landcare group

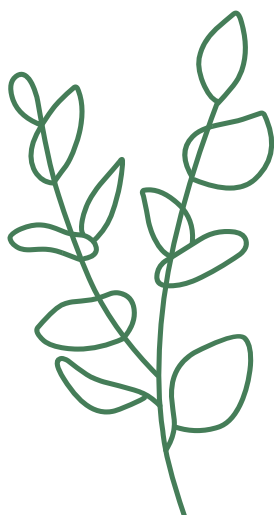


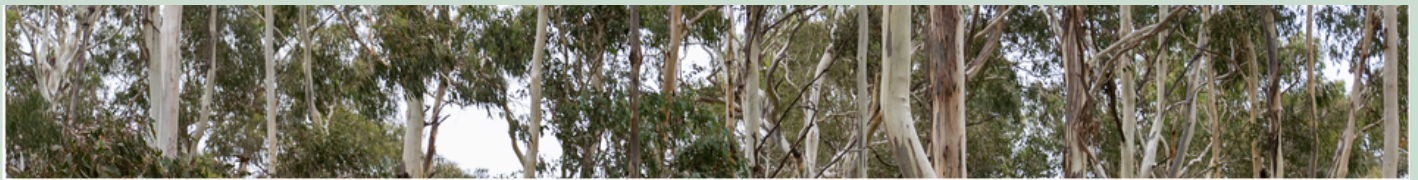
Johannes Meier
General Committee Member

Johannes Meier is a member of Danthonia Bruderhof Community and has been Danthonia's land manager for the past 19 years. Johannes is a member of Gwymac Landcare and Swan Vale Landcare and has a strong interest in practising and promoting regenerative agriculture to increase farm health, productivity and profit.

Danthonia runs a cattle breeding and trading enterprise and has implemented regenerative farming practices such as Holistic Grazing Management, Natural Sequence Farming, Keyline and are advocates for healthy Soils and Soil Biology.

Educating farmers/ landholders in regenerative farming techniques and sharing knowledge and experience in applying regen management is the key to moving toward resilience and profitability in our district and is what Johannes believes Gwymac does very well.





GWYMAC COMMITTEE

{ educate landholders on sustainable land management and encourage the uptake of these practices }



Kate Usmar
General Committee Member



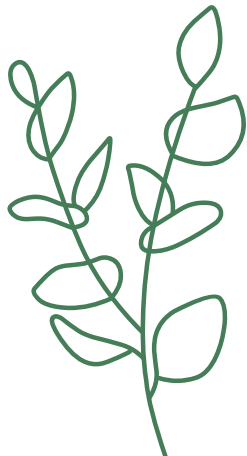
Rick Walker
General Committee Member

Kate Usmar is a passionate advocate for regenerative agriculture and a dedicated voice for change in the Australian grazing industry.

With a deep respect for the land and those who work it, Kate is driven by a vision of farming that restores ecosystems, builds soil health, and supports thriving rural communities.

Her journey in agriculture has been shaped by hands-on experience, strong industry relationships, and an unwavering belief that agriculture can be both profitable and regenerative. Kate is known for challenging conventional thinking, encouraging producers to ask better questions, and helping them reconnect with the principles of working *with* nature, not against it.

Whether she's hosting a workshop or standing in a paddock with graziers, Kate brings heart, clarity, and purpose to everything she does. Her leadership is grounded in integrity, practical knowledge, and a commitment to leaving the landscape better than she found it.



Rick is a highly experienced geologist with more than 25 years in the mining and resources industry, specialising in both coal and metallurgical minerals. Over his career, he has worked with several major companies in roles spanning exploration and operational geology, providing expertise in both open-cut and underground mining environments. Rick's professional experience includes geological mapping, resource modelling, and project supervision, contributing to the safe and efficient development of numerous mining operations.

Beyond his professional achievements, Rick is an active community member. He serves with the State Emergency Service (SES) and the Lion's Club in Ashford, acts as secretary for the Coffs Harbour branch of the Australian Native Bee Association, and volunteers regularly at the Inverell Community Garden, reflecting his strong commitment to community service and environmental stewardship.





{ sharing knowledge and experience }



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