

Landcare Week 6th-13th September
Register at www.landcareonline.com.au to become a citizen scientist



Discovering 'citizen science'

By MATTHEW CAWOOD

Group science and environment writer

SCIENCE /'si:ns/: the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment.

Who better to contribute to scientific understanding of Australia than the people out in the natural world, observing and shaping it: Landcarers?

That idea underpins the "citizen scientists" theme of Landcare Week 2010, set to run from September 6 to 13.

Citizen science engages the public to observe changes in the natural world and report into a central information repository, which can then serve as a benchmark against which all future changes are measured.

For instance, last year's RabbitScan operation collected information on rabbit densities, distribution and damage from 3400 sites around Australia – an invaluable resource for scientists wanting to check on shifts in rabbit populations in the future.

Landcare Australia's chief executive, Heather Campbell, is also a director of Earthwatch Institute, an organisation that links conservation volunteers with environmental restoration projects.



LEFT: Landcare volunteers along a river in Victoria, collecting water quality data. Waterwatch is a national community water quality monitoring network that encourages all Australians to become active in the protection of their waterways.

Earthwatch's latest initiative is ClimateWatch, a citizen science initiative that engages the public in observing changes in the natural world that might help scientists better understand the effects of climate change.

"The idea is to get a huge pool of data that scientists can then use to help determine what is actually happening," Ms Campbell said.

"Landcarers, Coastcarers are out

there as natural observers anyway. While they are out there doing their activities, they can get involved in feeding information back into the science community."

Launched in October 2009, ClimateWatch is an ongoing program, and the plan is that it will run indefinitely to amass the depth of information that allows scientists to identify trends.

Landcare members who contribu-

ted to ClimateWatch or any of the range of citizen science programs – see box – were effectively contributing to the science that informed policy, Ms Campbell said.

In turn, that enhanced scientific and policy understanding could bolster the Landcare concept of community driven environmental repair.

"We're trying to marry the science and the importance of the work being done there with an amazing community movement involving hundreds of thousands of volunteers."

"This is the international Year of Biodiversity. There has been a lot of work being done to show that biodiversity is decreasing, and that climate change will accelerate that."

"This really is a good link between the work of Landcarers in the communities and international efforts to try and come up with initiatives to reduce the impacts of climate change."

Get Involved

The list of citizen science programs that Landcare members can contribute to during Landcare Week includes:

ClimateWatch www.climatewatch.org.au
Melbourne Water's Frog Census (Melbourne) www.frogs.melbournewater.com.au
Other frog surveys www.frogatlas.com.au
Birds in the Backyard www.birdsinbackyards.net/surveys

Waterwatch www.waterwatch.org.au
RabbitScan www.rabbitscan.net.au
Reef Life Survey www.reeflifesurvey.com – volunteer scuba divers wanted
Earthwatch Australia www.earthwatch.org/australia/expeditions
Barbara Hardy Centre for Sustainable Urban Environment (Adelaide) www.unisa.edu.au/barbarahardy/research/citizen-science.asp

Sea Search (Victoria) www.peopleandparks.org/programs/marine-connections/sea-search.html
REDMAP (Tasmania) www.redmap.org.au – looking for input from scuba divers, recreational and commercial fishers
ECOCEAN Whale Shark Photo-ID Library (international) www.goearthtrek.com
Globe at Night (international) www.globeatnight.org

New phase in rabbit fight: the eyes have it

RABBITS are no longer the focus of stories of nature gone feral, but even at diminished numbers, they continue to wreak havoc on the Australian landscape.

Just one rabbit per hectare can be enough to stop regeneration of all native plants, scientists have found.

Across Australia, rabbits have been estimated to cost the nation \$110 million a year in degradation and lack of regeneration.

All of which makes a great case for Landcare Week involvement in RabbitScan, a "citizen science"

initiative to map rabbits and their influence across Australia.

Last year the Rabbit Management Advisory Group (RMAG), under the chairmanship of David Lord, "Thackaringa", Broken Hill, devised RabbitScan as a way of quantifying Australia's rabbit challenge, to help scientists better address the issue and raise awareness among policymakers.

The idea is simple: wherever they are, people can survey local rabbit populations and report back on the "three Ds" –

density, distribution and damage.

Rabbit locations, and the associated reports, are then put on a Google Earth map to provide a graphic picture of rabbits in Australia.

RabbitScan project manager, Jenny Quealy, said the program had been aiming for 5000 sites in 2009; it got 3400 before it ran out of funding.

Now the Federal Australian Pest Animal Management Program and some corporations, including Woolworths and Toshiba, have helped restart the program.

Ms Quealy said public input into the RabbitScan database would be an important factor in getting a replacement for the rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV, formerly known as rabbit calicivirus), now considered past its use-by date.

The concept may also be extended to include other ferals like camels, cane toads and wild dogs.

■ For more information about participating in RabbitScan, visit www.rabbitscan.net.au

– MATTHEW CAWOOD

In Brief

Landcare gets mobile help:

Australia's official mobile phone recycling program, MobileMuster, and Landcare Australia are combining forces to give Australia's coastline a helping hand this summer.

The two not-for-profit organisations are encouraging all Australians to round up their old and broken mobile phones, batteries and accessories and hand them in for recycling.

For every kilogram of mobile phones received by 31 October, a tree will be planted in five key coastal areas across Australia.

To recycle an old mobile phone, either drop them off at a mobile phone retailer or collection point (to find out where, go to www.mobilemuster.com.au or call 1300 730 070) or post them by picking up a free MobileMuster recycling satchel from Australia Post.

You can even post them by printing off a reply paid mailing label from www.mobilemuster.com.au

Avatar message in action:

The blockbuster film, *Avatar*, carried a big-hitting environmental message that will be given an earthly form in an ambitious program to plant one million trees across the world in 2010.

Earth Day Network and *Avatar* studio, 20th Century Fox, are teaming up with environmental and reforestation organisations in 15 countries to bring attention to bear on the importance of trees in mitigating greenhouse gases.

Landcare Australia has been selected as a partner in the program, which not only seeks to get the trees in the ground, but to ensure they will be cared for until maturity.

Landcare has committed to planting 30,000 trees in Australia as part of the initiative.

■ Updates will be posted on the Landcare website, www.landcareonline.com.au

'Hands' get a lift: The "caring hands" logo that has come to symbolise Landcare has been given a facelift.

The original design has become one of the most recognised symbols in Australia.

The new design for the Landcare, Junior Landcare and Coastcare logos retains the caring hands, but in a setting that reflects the 21st century.

Along with the logo refresh, Landcare Australia has updated its style guide for groups and corporate partners wanting to incorporate the logos into publicity material.

The style guide can be downloaded at www.landcareonline.com.au – look for the Media Centre under the Resources tab.



Landcare Week 6th - 13th September

Landcare Australia is giving every Australian the opportunity to help scientists across the globe study the impact of climate change on our ecosystems by monitoring, collecting and recording data from their own backyards, suburban streets, parks and bushland.

Landcare Week celebrates the efforts and work of over 4,000 landcare groups and countless volunteers. As a Landcare ClimateWatcher you will be part of the landcare community, who are making a positive contribution to their local environment from work, school and home.

To register to be a Landcare ClimateWatcher or for more information about Landcare Week events in your local community, visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Campaign Partner

ClimateWatch
an initiative of Earthwatch Institute

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Sue and Sean Delaney were awarded the People's Choice Award for their Sinclair's Gully vineyard – the first advanced eco-certified vineyard in the Adelaide Hills.

Going green in the Adelaide Hills

WHILE Sinclair's Gully might be one of Australia's smallest wine producers, its conservation efforts are making a splash across the country. The Norton Summit vineyard took out the People's Choice Award at the National Landcare Awards in Canberra.

Owners, Sean and Sue Delaney, were delighted to receive the accolade for their operation, which is the first advanced eco-certified vineyard and cellar door in the Adelaide Hills.

attention soon turned to the environment surrounding their vineyard.

The Delaneys were concerned about the dwindling amount of natural vegetation left in the Mt Lofty Ranges.

It is estimated less than 10 per cent of the natural vegetation remains, and most of that is found on private properties.

The Delaneys were determined to return their share to pristine condition.

Enchanted by the majestic candle-

As founding members of the local landcare group Friends of Moores Road, Mr and Mrs Delaney have been instrumental in getting the local community to think green.

Sinclair's Gully is one of only two cellar doors nationally to have completed the advanced eco certification accreditation program run by Ecotourism Australia.

In June the business completed the Climate Action Program to achieve the climate action innovator certification.

In the 2009-10 financial year, the business slashed its total emissions by 29 per cent after cutting 24pc from its greenhouse gas emissions and recording a 33pc drop in energy consumption between 2008 and 2009.

In order to further reduce their footprint, the Delaneys have implemented an environmental management system, which includes programs to collect all water from the site and recycle all materials used.

A solar electricity system has been installed, meaning more than two-thirds of the business's electricity consumption is now generated on site.

Synthetic herbicides and pesticides have not been used for the past nine years, and native grasses have been planted between rows to encourage beneficial insects to repopulate.

– JACINTA ROSE

In the 2009-10 financial year, (Sinclair's Gully) slashed its total emissions by 29 per cent after cutting 24pc from its greenhouse gas emissions and recording a 33pc drop in energy consumption between 2008 and 2009.

The People's Choice Award is decided by an open vote, with members of the public encouraged to vote for their favourite Landcare project from the 88 national award finalists.

The Delaneys purchased their 10.5-hectare property at Norton Summit in 1997, after many years of searching for their dream bush retreat in the Adelaide Hills.

A year later, they established a one-hectare vineyard in an existing clearing, planting it to sauvignon blanc and chardonnay grapes.

Operating with a green mindset from the beginning, the couple's

bark gums from the moment they first visited Sinclair's Gully, the couple has worked tirelessly for the past 13 years.

In that time, they have turned an area overrun by two-metre high blackberry bushes into the woodland with the highest conservation rating in the Mt Lofty Ranges.

In recent years, their efforts have been rewarded with numerous environmental and tourism awards, including wins in the ecotourism and winery, distillery or boutique brewery tourism categories of the South Australian Tourism Awards.

Environmental

By KIM CHAPPELL

WHEN deregulation hit the dairy industry in 2000 the Strong family, like many other farmers, thought about cutting their losses and moving west.

But instead they decided to stick it out – a choice which has turned their milkers into what are believed to be Australia's highest yielding pasture-fed cows.

But it wasn't achieved overnight, nor was it with improved genetics – instead Lynne, Michael and their son, Nick, set about improving their pastures and doing what was best for the environment and their cows.

They milk 400 cows, three times a day, across two properties, "Clover Hill" and Lemon Grove Research Farm, near Jamberoo, New South Wales, producing five million litres of milk a year.

This achievement was reached simply by "growing as much grass" as possible.

Their hard work, and its environmental benefits was recognised when Clover Hill Dairies won the National Woolworths Primary Producer Landcare award for 2010.

Mrs Strong said the trait which put them over the line, above other farmers doing "phenomenal" things, was their involvement with the public.

Surrounded by an urban environment they looked at what they were doing "from our neighbours point of

view" like putting organic fertiliser out during the week rather than the weekend, getting involved with the local community, employing young people and taking part in education programs in schools.

It took a lot of faith for the Strongs to continue to pursue their new farming technique.

The past two and a half years have been a "big learning curve" – it took two years before they could even be sure the enterprise would be as profitable as they thought.

"You have to have immense faith in yourself," Mrs Strong said.

It was a path they started down when their consultant told them they had two choices when deregulation was introduced and the drought followed – to either use a total mixed ration to feed their cows or milk their cows three times a day.

The latter was by far the best option, because it's more cost effective to make money from grass.

But it had its problems as well. "We had to look at the impact on the land, and the cows, they would be travelling up to 50 per cent extra a day."

The Strongs sought help from the local Small Farms Network, Landcare Illawarra and the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority – this opened up funding from government and allowed them to make the changes they needed to.

And it certainly paid off – Mrs Strong

National Award Winners

- Local Government Individual Landcarer:** Kate McLaren, Attunga, NSW.
- Woolworths Primary Producer:** Clover Hill Dairies, Jamberoo, NSW.
- Australian Young Landcare Leader:** Erin Rowe, Hawkesbury, NSW.
- Australian Government Natural Resource Management (NRM) Region:** Desert Channels Queensland, Longreach, Qld.
- Australian Government Local Landcare Facilitator/Co-ordinator:** John David Nicholas, Charters Towers, Qld.
- Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices:** BST Oyster Supplies, Cowell, SA.
- Local Government Landcare Partnerships:** Huon Valley Council, Huon Valley, Tas.
- Toshiba Community Group:** Little Swanport Catchment Management Plan Implementation Committee, Little Swanport, Tas.
- Australian Government Coastcare:** Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group and the Point Danger Committee of Management, Warrnambool, Vic.
- Urban Landcare:** Friends of Westgate Park, Melbourne, Vic.
- Westpac Education:** Baldivis Primary School, Baldivis, WA.
- Leighton Holdings Indigenous:** South Coast NRM, South Coast, WA.
- People's Choice:** Sinclair's Gully, Norton Summit, SA.

Sustainability

PASSION for sustainability and best practice in the oyster industry at a local level has led to national and international recognition for three Eyre Peninsula oyster growers.

BST Oyster Supplies, Cowell, South Australia, won the Sustainable Farm Practices Award at the 2010 National Landcare Awards for its innovative practices in improving natural resource management and productivity.

With no formal training, just "life" and a strong belief in the product and system, chief executive officer, Ashley Turner, was "stoked" at the national recognition.

"We are only country boys having a crack," he said.

Mr Turner, with fellow Cowell oyster farmers and directors, Geoff Turner and Tony Schultz, developed, produced and commercialised the BST Adjustable Longline Oyster Farming System to suit the rough and weedy conditions at Franklin Harbour, SA.

From humble beginnings in 1989, the business has gone from strength to



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF RURAL AUSTRALIA

The Woolworths Fresh Food Farming Program reaffirms Woolworths' commitment to investing in the future of rural Australia.

As part of the program, Woolworths is working with Landcare Australia to implement a variety of major on-farm projects across the country by providing Sustainable Farming Grants.

The aim of the Sustainable Farming Grants is to develop, improve and encourage sustainable farming practices. Since 2007, Woolworths has invested \$5.8 million in these projects.

For further details on the projects visit www.landcareonline.com





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focus boosts dairy profits

said "Clover Hill" was now one of Australia's most water-efficient milk production systems producing 125,000 litres of milk per megalitre of captured water compared to the industry average of 3500 litres.

"Recognising you have to be profitable to reinvest in your landscape and vice versa it became about keeping our eyes open for funding and being prepared to match what we were given dollar for dollar," Mrs Strong said.

With half of the 100 hectares of "Clover Hill" high conservation value rainforest, the family made the decision to close it off to the cattle, only farming 50ha of land.

This strategy meant upgrading laneways, installing concrete causeways over waterways, and gravity-fed water troughs in all the paddocks.

Lemon Grove is the Strong's "test" land – with up to 100 per cent of the effluent from the operation recycled onto 40pc of the pasture.

The pasture is 70pc Kikuyu base overplanted with annual rye/oats and 30pc perennial legumes, herbs and brassicas overplanted with annual rye/oats.

This has reduced the feed gaps with the aim to have high quality pasture available all year round.



National Woolworths Primary Producer Landcare award winners, Lynne and Michael Strong holding their 2009 State Landcare Primary Producer Award, with their son, Nick, and school-based apprentice, Emma Visser, (both standing behind) on their farm, "Clover Hill Dairies", Jamberoo, New South Wales.

The traditional slow pasture period of April to May no longer exists, allowing the Strong's to produce more milk at this time

and receive higher prices for it. "In winter we now have pasture that is equal to spring," Mrs Strong said.

"The cows are responding well to it and the higher quality grass is lifting the fat and protein content of our milk."

passion pays off for Eyre Peninsula innovators

strength and is recognised worldwide as best practice oyster farming. It is the only system used on the Eyre Peninsula.

"Nature is dynamic," Ashley Turner said.

"You have to be dynamic to capture the maximum potential of nature's asset."

The award was presented to BST in recognition of the minimal environmental impact of the adjustable long line system, recyclability of components and natural carbon capture of oysters.

"Farmers are the best custodians of their asset, which is their land or water," Mr Turner said.

"They are conservationists and are not going to jeopardise or destroy their livelihood."

He hopes their success will attract more funding and sponsorship to the local Cowell Area School's aquaculture program, enabling it to keep up with industry best



practice technology and methods. The school is the first in Australia to own and operate its own oyster farm and has the

potential to attract students nationally and internationally. Ashley said for the industry to be at the forefront of sustainability, it

needed young people entering it with passion and the most advanced training.

– LOUISE MCBRIDE

In Brief

Awards survey online: An online questionnaire has been posted to evaluate the 2010 National Landcare Awards.

Those who complete the questionnaire will help make the next National Landcare Awards an even bigger success.

The survey is open to the general public, finalists, facilitators and Landcare Australia corporate sponsors.

It addresses different aspects of the awards, finalist workshops, awards venue, awards dinner, accommodation, judging process and applications.

■ To provide your feedback visit www.landcareonline.com.au and go to the Landcare Awards section under Resources.

Rise of the Green Nomad: Some of the "grey nomads" are taking on a new hue: they are working with Landcare groups in Queensland to become a new breed of rover, the Green Nomads.

The Green Nomads program, an initiative of Queensland Water and Land Carers (QLWC), the State's Landcare peak body, pulls together the annual influx of retired wanderers who head north out of colder climates – known as the grey nomads – and Queensland's large base of Landcare volunteers, who struggle to find enough hands to fulfil their ambitions.

"Green Nomads is an innovative new program that targets Australia's large transient population, who through the program can volunteer with community environmental groups to undertake conservation work in the communities they travel through," said Esmá Armstrong, chair of QLWC.

Both parties can enjoy multiple benefits, Ms Armstrong said: an appreciation of age and experience, a love of travel, and environmental responsibility.

■ To find out more about the Green Nomads visit www.greennomads.com.au or contact Queensland Water and Land Carers on (07) 3252 7154.

Building knowledge base: The National Landcare Facilitator (NLF) and Landcare Australia Limited (LAL) are seeking the help of landcarers from across the country in collecting the knowledge that has been built by Landcare and related groups across the country since the inception of Landcare nearly 21 years ago.

The creation of the Landcare Knowledge Archive is a partnership between the NLF and LAL and it is the first time since the inception of Landcare that this knowledge is being collected in one place and will be available to all.

The aim of the Landcare Knowledge Archive is to capture existing print or electronic knowledge from the Landcare movement and make it publicly accessible in a central online location and build on this in the future.

The initial building phase of the Landcare Knowledge Archive will not be open until Landcare week in September when it is envisaged that the initial material will go live on the Landcare Australia website.

PDF copies of material can be submitted to the National Landcare Facilitator at landcarearchive@nrm.gov.au along with an email which gives approval of the author or responsible entity for it to be made available to the public via the LAL website.

The material being sought for the archive includes books, guides, fact sheets, and any other information which have been produced Landcare community across the country.

– HELEN WALKER



Photo: Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania water quality project supported by the Qantas Foundation



The Qantas Foundation has supported Landcare Australia since 2009 providing funds for community environmental projects. The funds are directed to Landcare and Coastcare groups who focus on water quality and conservation projects including the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania who restore vegetation adjacent to waterways and the ongoing training of Larrakia rangers in Darwin to accurately monitor water quality and its impact on Aboriginal food sources.

The Qantas Foundation proudly supports Landcare Week 2010.

For more information visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Landcare volunteers go on camera

By SHEENA COFFEY

WAITING patiently for the film crew, Landcare volunteers stood on the sloping river bank at Lilydale Sanctuary, near Geelong, Victoria.

At the call of "action", they carefully picked their way through creeping underbrush as they made their ascent up the bank, leaving freshly planted trees in their wake.

Laughing and chattering, they worked for the camera, re-tracing steps and halting under various directions as film crew darted between trees and maneuvered through the bush in search of a perfect shot.

The Sanctuary was just one location on a two-day shoot described as a "call to arms" by Landcare Australia Limited chief executive officer, Heather Campbell.

"Landcare is an amazing movement with amazing achievements," Ms Campbell said.

"And for it to continue to have such great achievements on the ground, it needs people to get involved."

The ad will be launched during Landcare Week (September 6 to 13) and will be accompanied by print and radio advertisements.

It will depict people from a diverse range of work backgrounds and age groups climbing into a donation tin which will then be deposited in rural settings, with the intent of persuading people to donate their time, rather than money.

"This is the right time to show Landcare as a great, vital, fun thing to be a part of," Ms Campbell said.

A national Landcare directory was also set to be launched during Landcare Week, she said, which would provide keen community members with an

opportunity to team up with a nearby group.

This advertisement has been funded by the Federal Government under a Caring for our Country Grant and by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) in Victoria.

Team leader for the volunteer recruitment initiative, Stephanie Cam, was on hand to represent the DSE during the Lilydale Sanctuary shoot and said \$2 million had been committed in the four years since 2007 by the State Government to increase Landcare membership and volunteer numbers in Victoria.

Landcare has enjoyed healthy membership growth and increased volunteer numbers during this time.

Ms Cam said DSE and Landcare hoped the advertisement would result in a further lift in membership.

"It will help us target people we haven't traditionally been involved with," she said.

"There are still huge challenges for Landcare, such as demographic change and property turn-over.

"Recruitment is not something you do once and the job is done.

"We need to continue getting people thinking about the environment and ways they can make a positive contribution."

She said Landcare would welcome skills-based volunteers who would be able to assist with book-keeping, or webpage management, for instance.

For Bronte Payne, who has been involved with Landcare for 20 years and is the Geelong network coordinator, involvement has been a labour of love.

His Inverleigh property has long since waved good-bye to livestock and is being slowly returned to its



Landcare volunteers being filmed entering the giant donation can in Geelong.

natural state.

During four years in the early 1990s he planted 19,000 trees and has now welcomed back various bird species, wallabies and echidnas.

He said there were always challenges in front of groups such as the one he co-ordinates and that despite their continual work to improve remnant vegetation, there was still a net loss of native vegetation.

"We need to constantly be putting new stuff back in the landscape to offset losses."

His network is involved in

rabbit-baiting and restoration, revegetation and removal of woody weeds along the Barwon and Moorabool rivers and also Hovels Creek.

More volunteers and members would mean many things to his network, Mr Payne said.

Projects followed people, he said and in turn corporate and school interest.

"If you have projects on-going, you have a level of operation and support which comes with it."

But a base level of funding was required to ensure a critical mass of projects and on-ground works, Mr Payne said.

"If I have schools who

want to participate in a tree planting day, I need on-ground works.

"But if I can't buy trees or don't have landholders engaged, it grinds to a halt."

Mr Payne said he would like to see the Landcare lobby become a stronger voice and have an impact on government direction, policy making and attract a greater share of the funding pie.

The Geelong network was currently relying on state level funding which came in regular instalments.

He said to remain viable, the network needed about \$100,000 a year.



Scenes from the upcoming Landcare Australia advertising campaign.

The New National Landcare Directory connecting landcare and coastcare volunteers



Register your landcare/coastcare group

The new directory has been purpose built so that it is easier for groups to use. It will also capture the various project types that groups are working on all over Australia. You are encouraged to register if your group is involved in volunteer community environment projects including: landcare, coastcare, sustainable farming, friends of groups, bushcare, rivercare, Junior Landcare (eg. schools, scouts and other youth groups).

Grants available!

For a limited time, Landcare Australia will offer 20 x \$1,000 grants to the groups who register by September 6th - the first day of Landcare Week. The winning grant recipients will be selected at random from the database and announced on landcareonline.com.au

Registration only takes 5 mins to complete.

Benefits of being on the National Landcare Directory:

- Volunteers can easily find your group
- Ability to promote your events such as working bees and planting days
- Connections with other groups can be easily made
- Your projects can be showcased
- Potential corporate sponsors can find groups for local community sponsorship
- You can easily apply for grants managed by Landcare Australia

www.landcareonline.com.au

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Holden revs up environment support

By MATTHEW CAWOOD

HOLDEN, a legendary Australian brand, has joined forces with another great Aussie brand, Landcare, to enable some important environmental repair projects across Australia.

Holden dealers from Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria have swung their support behind Landcare Australia to help restore natural habitats in local communities.

The project, known as Holden Habitats, will include creek restorations, weed control and revegetation programs, foreshore vegetation, bushland recovery, habitat restoration for native species and water purifying floating islands.

The alliance means Holden customers now have the opportunity to

make a donation to Landcare as part of their servicing charge.

In Western Australia, donations from Metro Motors Holden's customers will go towards Bennett Brook Reserve.

Metro Motors Holden principal, Paul Davies, who launched Holden Habitats in Western Australia in June, said his dealership had pledged \$12,000 to reduce fire hazards, eradicate weeds and restore local native habitats.

"As a company, we are trying to create an environment better for all Australians, by building cars that use less fuel, have lower emissions and remain affordable for motorists."

"This is a great opportunity for our many customers to

L The Holden Habitat program is the first step to creating an environmental program that can be adopted by Holden dealerships around Australia

– Landcare CEO, Heather Campell

"The donation will also go towards preventing erosion of the burnt section of the reserve from entering the Bennett Brook and Perth's Swan River," Mr Davies said.

Other participating dealers include City Holden in Adelaide, Bartons Bayside Holden in Brisbane, Heartland Holden in Sydney, Preston Motors Holden in Melbourne and Metro Motors Holden in Perth.

Holden executive director of manufacturing operations, Martyn Cray, said the initiative allowed Holden to deepen its commitment to Landcare Australia to a new level by engaging dealers at a more local level.

"I'm pleased to see our dealers build on Holden's relationship with Landcare Australia," Mr Cray said.

help our efforts to improve the environment of the communities in which we live and work."

Landcare Australia chief executive officer Heather Campbell said Holden Habitats had the potential to make an enormous impact on the environment at a community level.

"The Holden Habitat program is the first step to creating an environmental program that can be adopted by Holden dealerships around Australia," Ms Campbell said.

"The program will provide funding to groups who are currently working



Holden's Phil Brook and John Nossiter, and Paul Davies with Landcare Australia chief executive officer, Heather Campbell (centre).

hard to protect and repair local environmental issues."

Paul Davies said his dealership had worked closely with Landcare Australia and Holden GM to bring the Holden Habitat project to fruition.

"We want to show our customers and the community that we take the health of the environment and our

waterways seriously," Mr Davies said.

"Holden Habitats allows the company to give funding to Landcare Australia for a local project over the next 12 months and provides the opportunity for the Landcare/Holden team to donate their time at the local Landcare project site."

■ Visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Where To Find Them

Holden Habitats Landcare/Holden Dealer Network:

- Brisbane Bartons Holden Bayside – Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, Bulimba and Wynnum creeks
- Adelaide City Holden – Torrens Lake Floating Islands
- Melbourne Preston Motors Holden Group – Five Mile Creek Natural Habitat Enhancement
- Perth Metro Motors Holden – Bennett Brooke Reserve
- Sydney Heartland Holden Motor Group – Ropes Creek Rehabilitation

Qantas Foundation targets long-term water projects

GREEN credentials are not just a flying thought at Qantas.

The company takes seriously its commitment to the environment and sustainability, and also to providing volunteering opportunities for its employees.

For two years the Qantas Foundation – the company's charitable trust – has been involved with Landcare Australia Limited and will this year step up its commitment to become the official corporate sponsor of Landcare Week, September 6 to 13.

Chief executive officer of the Foundation, Shirley Davies (pictured), said the relationship had



been regarded as much more than just "a good thing to do".

"Qantas takes great pride in supporting the iconic natural assets of Australia and we are involved in ensuring, through Landcare, their work helps protect these natural assets."

Qantas staff founded the Green Team in 2005 and its steadily growing membership – 1000 employees to date – has shown the strong desire of staff to become involved with volunteering work.

"Landcare is a national movement and it's a really good thing for our staff, who are locat-

ed across the country, to be able to support."

Last year Green Team members and Qantas staff were seen paddling through Sydney waterways as part of Landcare Week's Source to Sea event and Ms Davies said it had provided an opportunity for great fun, but also to raise awareness of very important issues.

During the previous two years, the Qantas Foundation has committed \$100,000 to Landcare annually.

Through its sponsorship, Qantas Foundation has been involved with water quality, salinity and water way protection projects in the Northern Territory, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

Included in the projects has been the training of Larrikia rangers based at Darwin, in the Northern Territory.

Rangers have been learning how to accurately monitor water quality in

Darwin Harbour, focusing on the impact of water quality on key Aboriginal food sources such as shellfish.

This project will join another water project in the Swan and Canning Rivers in Western Australia, and funding will also enable Landcare and Coastcare groups in Southern Tasmania to restore vegetation adjacent to waterways greatly affected by environment damage.

Ms Davies said the foundation was keen to focus its sponsorship on water sustainability because of the long-term requirements of such projects.

Landcare Australia's partnerships manager, Shivani Jayasinghe, said the upcoming Landcare Week would celebrate the Landcare movement's volunteers and the "amazing contribution they have made to the Australian landscape".

The theme for Landcare Week, in the organisation's 21st year, is ClimateWatch.

Ms Jayasinghe said the public would be encouraged to visit the Landcare website, register as citizen scientists and begin observing and recording the movements and changes of key species and the environment.

"Everyone at home, work or school can be making observations like are magpies pecking? Is a particular leaf changing colour at this time of year? Is there mass flight of a particular type of insect?" Ms Jayasinghe said.

"Information recorded by Australians about what's happening in their local area will be used by scientists across Australia to help them better understand and document our changing climate."

– SHEENA COFFEY



2010 National Landcare Awards Winner

Westpac Education Award

Western Australia's Baldvis Primary School's innovative educational programs provide a unique learning experience for 30 schools in the Perth metropolitan area. The project evolved through a determination to preserve the region's fast diminishing natural environment.

Over 3000 students from kindergarten to year 12 participated in the Forest Programs in 2009 alone. The project aims to empower and educate local young people to become proactive and effective in their efforts to achieve environmental sustainability in their communities.

To nominate your school for the 2011 State and Territory Landcare Award, Westpac Education Category visit www.landcareonline.com.au

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Night of nights for Landcare winners

THE National Landcare Awards, held at Parliament House on June 24, celebrated the work of volunteers from across Australia who are making a significant contribution to the environment.

Australia's 88 finalists were recognised and among them 13 were announced winners.

The winning projects ranged from sustainable farming initiatives to education programs teaching the next generation about environment sustainability.

Landcare Australia's corporate sponsors were also recognised for their support of the community and its projects.



Coastcare winners from Warrnambool and Point Danger, Victoria, Don McTaggart, Kate McInnes, John Sutherland, Kristie King, Chris Drummond and David Williams.



Huon Valley Council representatives, Robert Armstrong, Holly Hansen and Desley Kippax with their Local Government Landcare Partnerships Award.



Erin Rowe (centre), Hawkesbury, NSW, Young Landcarer Award winner, with Alex Muir from Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and actor, Jack Thompson.



Westpac's Graham Jennings and Sally Kirkwright with John Worthy, Courtney Brown, Tegan Tregonning and Judith Hill from Baldvis Primary School, Baldvis, WA.

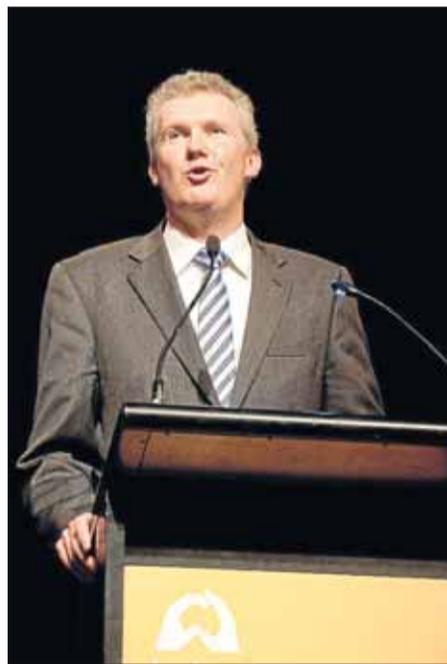
RIGHT: Individual Landcarer Award national winner, Kate McLaren, with Agriculture Minister, Tony Burke.



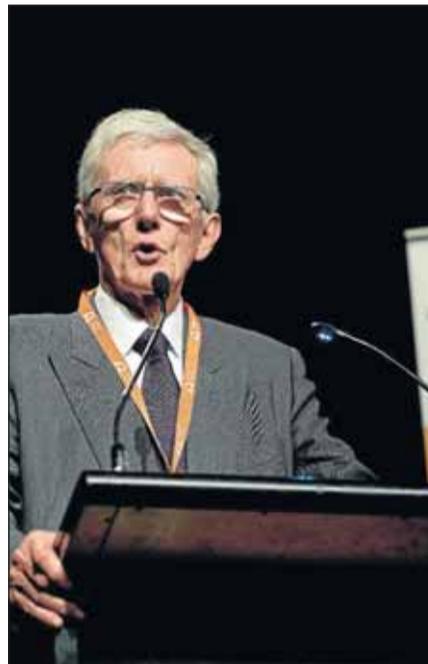
Laura Berry from Leighton Holdings with Shandell Cummings and Justin Bellanger from South Coast Natural Resource Management, South Coast, WA.



Landcare Ambassador and MC for the night, Catriona Rowntree with students from Tasmania's Deloraine High School.



Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Sustainable Population, Tony Burke, delivering the keynote speech for the night.



Chairman of Landcare Australia, Jerry Ellis, celebrating the achievements of the 88 finalists.



Landcare Australia CEO, Heather Campbell, with Qantas Foundation chairman, John Fields and CEO, Shirley Davies.



Maria Weeding, Melanie Kelly, Helen Scott and Helen Geard, Little Swanport, Tasmania, who won the Community Group award, with Jack Thompson (second right).

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For each registration a donation of up to \$2 is made to Landcare Australia. Initiatives focus on reforestation and revegetation projects, the establishment of habitat and wildlife corridors and the reduction of salinity and nutrient runoff into waterways.

Register at www. etree.com.au

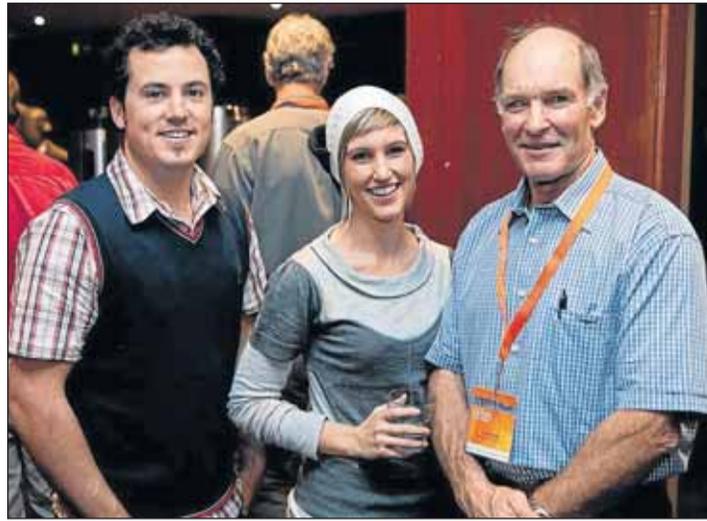


Landcare Week 6th-13th September

Register at www.landcareonline.com.au to become a citizen scientist




RIGHT: Tasmanian Woolworths Primary Producer finalist, Brian Baxter (right) with guests just before his presentation.



Victorian Young Landcare Leader finalist, Kayla Groombridge (middle) with Sheryn Fumberger and Leigh Wood.

Students and teachers from Lanyon High School, ACT, Westpac Education Award finalists.

Awards finalists' workshops

MORE than 300 guests gathered at Canberra's Rydges Lakeside Hotel to attend presentations by the 88 national Landcare award finalists on 24th June.

It was an opportunity for the finalists to share about their projects, achievements and their Landcare journey.

The event was a great success with new relationships among Landcare groups formed, exchange of ideas and encouragement to continue the good work.



Karen Stuhmcke, Marilyn Stephan, Linda Ruthenberg and Caitlin Ruthenberg of Gatton State Primary School, Queensland Westpac Education Award finalists.



Mike Swanson from Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Lynne Strong, Clover Hill Dairies, Jamberoo, NSW, Tony Hepworth.



Greg and Janet Kershaw of Friends of Bungan, NSW Coastcare finalists.



Landcare Australia board member, Alex Arbuthnot, with Victorian Woolworths Primary Producer finalists, Sandy and Julie Cameron, Meredith Dairy.



Teachers, parents and students of Grange Primary School, SA Westpac Education Award finalists.



Peter and Carole Edwards from Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group, Tasmanian Urban Landcare Award finalists.



Coastcare Award finalists, Heidi Taylor Queensland's Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society with Birds Tasmania's Valeria Ruoppolo and Eric Woehler.



Lisa Knight, Dylan Jessop, Clarrisa Lopez and Trevor Read from Darwin High School, NT, Westpac Education Award finalists.



From Little Things Big Things Grow.



Coles is proud to help schools and community groups establish their own garden in partnership with Junior Landcare.

If your school or community group would like to apply or find out more information, please visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au/coles

Quality costs less at



In Brief

Buy online: A one-stop-shop for Landcare, Coastcare and Junior Landcare merchandise is now online.

The shop has been set up as a resource for groups wanting to buy or create t-shirts, caps, banners and other Landcare kit.

There are options to personalise your t-shirts with your group's logo; or, if you need an item that is not in the shop, you can always contact the store to make a request for a special purchase.

All items can be purchased at cost price: Landcare Australia does not make a profit from any purchase.

The store will stock pins, caps made from 65 per cent recycled PET bottles, stickers, brimmed hats, t-shirts, and aluminium water bottles, among other things.

■ The shop can be found at www.landcareonline.com.au

Online relaunch: Landcareonline.com.au has been re-launched with a new look, new content, and new ways of getting around and finding information.

The new site has been designed for easier navigation for Landcare and Coastcare groups, volunteers and corporate partners.

It also aims to create a platform for the exchange of ideas and projects among the Landcare and Coastcare communities.

The site now offers the tools needed to start a new group, or write a media release.

Links to past Landcare awards have been included, to inspire new nominees and projects. Case studies are continuously being uploaded to provide similar inspiration.

Landcareonline also links to the new National Landcare Directory, which makes searching for a local group easier, and will help groups interact and apply for grants managed by Landcare Australia.

People can also register on the website to receive Landcare Australia e-newsletters.

A new framework: A proposal drafted by the Australian Framework for Landcare Reference Group, made up of Landcare members who work to ensure views expressed by the Landcare community during the consultation period are accurately reflected, will be released by chairperson, Coral Love, during Landcare week in September.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, reactivated the Australian Landcare Council and appointed Kim Chance as its chairman.

Mr Chance is a former minister for agriculture in Western Australia, and has a wealth of agricultural experience and a passion for community Landcare.

He said while the contents of the final draft of the framework will be kept under wraps until the September announcement, it is intended as a guide for landcarers.

— HELEN WALKER

Growing healthy school kids

By MATTHEW CAWOOD

COLES shoppers who have chosen re-usable bags over plastic bags have helped fund about 800 Junior Landcare school gardens.

An alliance between the supermarket and Landcare Australia, which started in 2008, means every time a shopper buys a green bag with the "caring hands" logo, a portion of the proceeds is donated to a Junior Landcare school garden project.

Last financial year, Coles gave out 440 grants worth \$1000 to \$1500 each, according to Majella Allen, Coles' Community and Sustainability manager.

The benefits cut both ways, Ms Allen said.

School children get to reconnect with food at its source, and understand the connections between soil, environment and themselves. And they get out of the classroom.

At Garran Primary School in the Australian Capital Territory, teacher Fiona Coles said, "We appreciate the opportunity the funding has given us to achieve the goal of a sustainable



Children in the garden at Gumnut Children's Centre, Milton, on the New South Wales South Coast.

barabran, New South Wales, said the garden gave her an opportunity to get out of the classroom and make her mark on the school.

We talked about looking after ourselves, the importance of the earth ... nurturing the seeds and plants to grow strong which is like us taking care of ourselves to grow healthy and strong

— Program facilitator, Fran Dobbie

vegetable garden the children can own and enjoy. I have never seen them so enthusiastic about spending time in the garden."

Matilda Clifton, a student at St Lawrence's Central School, Coona-

"When I walk past it, I think 'Wow, I did that!'"

In return, Coles staff get to visit schools and develop connections with the local communities.

Successes are reported back

through Coles' newsletters, "and help engender a sense of pride in the business".

Most school gardens are linked to the school's environmental curriculum.

That concept further opened up this year, when Coles expanded its donations program around the "premium natural" jute bags.

The proceeds go toward developing Indigenous gardens in preschools.

These gardens are helping children appreciate the importance of plants as living things and their connection with the earth and the land, according to Fran Dobbie, facilitator of the Indigenous Gardens Program.

"We all danced around the campfire and role-played the lifespan of

a plant," she said of one recent event.

"We talked about looking after ourselves, the importance of the earth, our Mother and linking it with seeds, water, air, sun, growth - nurturing the seeds and plants to grow strong which is like us taking care of ourselves to grow healthy and strong."

Ms Allen said the Landcare link is also important in other ways.

It has become a vehicle for Coles' other environmental programs, like raising awareness of plastic bag recycling and recycling of the reusable shopping bag lines.

■ More information about Junior Landcare grants can be found at www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants.htm

Sunny challenge on for junior landcarers

SOME people compete with cattle, some with tomatoes, others for the biggest pumpkin.

Yates is raising the flag on a children's sunflower competition - who can grow the tallest, or get the largest head, or take the most creative sunflower photo.

The Yates Junior Landcare Sunflower Challenge is a successor to last year's hugely successful Yates Junior Landcare Pumpkin Challenge, in which almost 20,000 children competed to grow the largest pumpkin.

The group winner was the McGrath family from Toowoomba, Queensland, with a 175kg whopper, while the individual winner was Boyd Wales from Walcha in rural New

South Wales with an impressive 94kg pumpkin.

"The previous challenges we have run in conjunction with Junior Landcare have been hugely successful," said Judy Horton, Yates's communications manager.

"We hope with this challenge we will continue to encourage and foster a new generation of junior gardeners.

"We also hope the participants will enjoy discovering their green fingers and seeing the results of their labour."

Chief executive officer of Landcare Australia, Heather Campbell, said the not-for-profit organisation was delighted to be able to provide encouragement and support to all young budding gardeners out there, "and to help educate them on the

importance of growing produce and the environmental benefits achievable from sustainable gardening practices".

Children under 16, schools and youth groups are being invited to take part in the challenge.

Participants can register on the Yates Junior Landcare Sunflower Challenge website to receive their free giant sunflower seeds, which they can plant in late October or early November and monitor their progress over the spring and summer months.

Kids can grow their sunflowers at home or at school, but will need to care for their plants during the hot summer weather.

They are also required to log onto the Yates Junior Landcare Sunflower

Challenge website once their flower has reached maturity to update the size of their giant sunflower and upload a photograph. The final winners will be announced in March 2011.

Yates is also working with Junior Landcare by providing grants to help schools and youth groups undertake School Environmental Management Plans.

Schools and youth groups across the country can apply for these grants by visiting www.juniorlandcare.com.au.

■ Anyone interested in taking part in the Yates Junior Landcare Sunflower Challenge can register at www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au

— MATTHEW CAWOOD