

# A thousand ways to care

**A**FTER looking at the calibre of the 88 finalists for the 2012 National Landcare Awards, Landcare Australia chief executive Heather Campbell thinks it's fortunate that she's banned from judging the awards.

"These people are doing amazing things, in areas ranging from sustainable ag to coastal regeneration. It's really encouraging to see what's happening".

Ms Campbell suggests that anyone looking for some good news stories only need review some of the finalist case studies on the Landcare Australia website – and then cast their vote for their favourites in the Peoples Choice award category.

"Just looking at the case studies helps you understand how many ways there are to get involved in Landcare," she said.

"It's not all just about planting trees."

And in a time when "doom and gloom" seems to be the prevailing mood, Landcare is a reminder that rather than dwelling on problems,

the movement itself is evolving.

People continue to be attracted to the idea and the reality of Landcare.

On a recent trip through south-west WA, her first visit to the region in about 20 years, Ms Campbell was impressed by the extent of positive landscape change, in the form of planted trees and perennial grass pastures.

"People are seeing that difference. They want to be part of it – so now it's finding new ways to engage them and carry Landcare forward," she said.

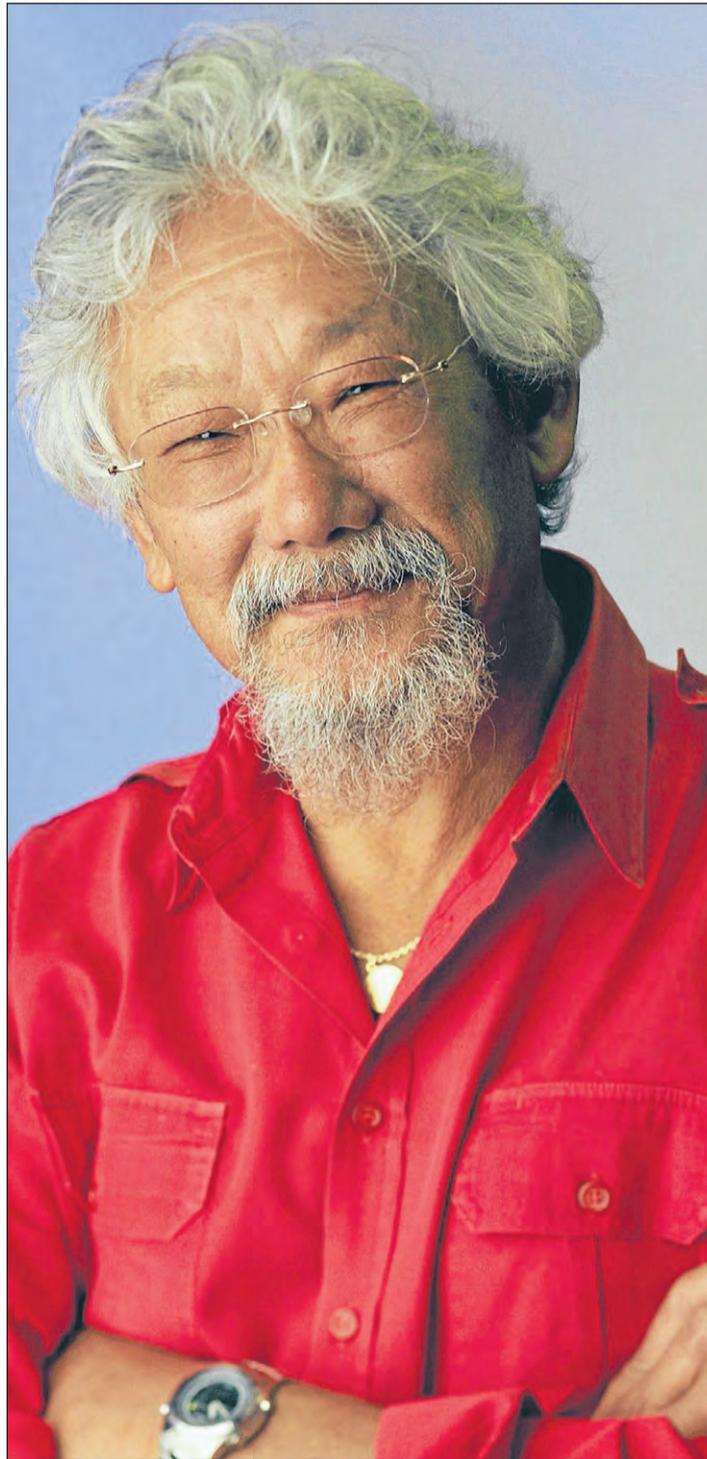
One evolutionary challenge is the changing nature of social engagement.

For instance, Ms Campbell said, two decades ago people travelled to attend monthly meetings in person.

Now there is a growing preference to communicate via Facebook or other social media sites.

"How do we develop the social aspects of Landcare, while continuing to make a difference on the ground?"

"Young people, in particular, are telling us that they want to get



## Fostering a strong future

AWARD-winning international scientist Dr David Suzuki will join other high-profile environmentalists, farmers, scientists, business people and communicators at the national conference on Landcare being held in Sydney this September.

With a growing interest in and concern for sustainable living and food security, Landcare is at the forefront of helping to ensure that Australia can move confidently towards a productive and resilient agricultural and environmental future.

At the conference dedicated volunteers, sustainable producers and professional Landcare officers will provide pragmatic insights to Landcare around Australia.

It will raise high level challenges, provide insights of experience and identify new innovations in Landcare and sustainable agriculture.

"The 2012 National Landcare Conference will provide delegates with an opportunity to learn about and share innovative practice approaches and solutions as well as opportunities to renew contacts, build new networks, share ideas and discuss challenges within the wider Landcare movement," National Landcare Facilitator Brett de Hayr said.

"The program also includes panel sessions and concurrent presentations from leading Landcare experts, field trips, workshops and poster presentations that represent a broad range of interests across Australia and internationally. It also includes social events, such as the 2012 National Landcare Awards Gala Dinner."

The National Landcare Conference 2012 will be held during Landcare Week from September 3 to 5 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre Darling Harbour.

The theme for this year's conference: 'Landcare – the future in our hands' is also an opportunity for the Landcare community to discuss the future of Caring for our Country as well as other national initiatives such as the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future initiative and the recently launched National Food Plan.

The conference is open to all landcarers including farmers, volunteers, Landcare and community groups, regional bodies, natural resource management practitioners, international Landcare members and government.

■ To register for the conference, or to find out more, visit [daff.gov.au/landcareconference](http://daff.gov.au/landcareconference)

## Just looking at the case studies helps you understand how many ways there are to get involved in Landcare

"people are just getting out there and doing something".

"There may be a whole lot out there in the economy that I can't change, but anyone can change a piece of land. We can physically make a difference to something that lasts," Ms Campbell said.

"Even if it starts really small, it's amazing how it can attract a few neighbours, and steadily grows.

"Even if it is just getting involved one or two days a year, Landcare is about taking us out of our living room, into our natural environment, and spreading some of that infectious enthusiasm."

While the original principles of Landcare as a community-based movement making a physical difference to the landscape are unchanged,

involved in Landcare, but they want to experience the social aspect of the movement as much as the environmental side of things. It's the feeling of being part of a team."

Landcare's team spirit will be on full display at the National Landcare Awards and Conference in Sydney in early September.

"It's a national conference, so I would encourage people with an interest in this area to come along because there will be a great exchange of ideas and new insights into what people are doing. It's not just an awards celebration," Ms Campbell said.

"The event is another way of showing that Landcare is really vibrant, and looking to the future.

"It's learning to adapt, and embrace everybody."

## Community ownership vital

COMMUNITY ownership was, and is, one of Landcare's most vital principles, in the view of Joan Kirner, former Premier of Victoria and a co-founder of Landcare during her term as the State's Conservation Minister in the mid-1980s.

The foremost objective of the movement must continue to be adding to the sustainability and productivity of the land, said Ms Kirner, still a doughty campaigner for social justice

despite some challenging health issues.

"But the second is community ownership, particularly ownership by people on the land, so they take responsibility for their land in partnership with others," she said.

"When I was Minister, I knew little about the land other than camping in national parks. What I learned from going out and talking to farmers – male and female – was that they wanted to take stewardship of their own land, but too often were

being told what to do by so-called experts.

"The best decisions are made by those who are affected by the solutions."

With a lifetime of engagement in social justice, on issues like domestic violence, Ms Kirner has seen a clear pattern in community-based activities.

"While ownership sits with community groups, it will work. If ownership shifts to the bureaucracy, it won't," she said.



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



## National Landcare Conference

3 – 5 September 2012 • Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

### Register now and participate in national discussions on Landcare

Help to ensure that Australia can move confidently towards a resilient agricultural and environmental future by joining the national forum on Landcare. It is an opportunity to learn and share innovative approaches and solutions. Register now for the National Landcare Conference 2012 at [daff.gov.au/landcareconference](http://daff.gov.au/landcareconference).





# Rewarding sustainable farming

Comment by JOE LUDWIG, Minister  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

THE activities of Landcare volunteers Australia over deserve recognition, but as Minister for Agriculture I take particular pride in the contribution of our nation's farmers.

They demonstrate leadership and a commitment to natural resource management and sustainable agriculture to safeguard the future of Australia's agricultural and farming industries.

In helping to spread the Landcare ethic, our farmers are working together with government to actively shape and guide innovative farming systems to improve sustainability and the quality of ecosystem services, while championing the uptake of more sustainable agriculture practices among landholders.

It is fitting, then, that farmers are among the many individuals who have been encouraged to nominate for the inaugural Bob Hawke Landcare Award.

Former Prime Minister Hawke offered strong government support through the National Landcare Program and declared that 1990 would mark the start of a Decade of Landcare.

The inaugural award recognises his role in elevating Landcare from a grassroots community movement to a national initiative and is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The award celebrates individual excellence in the promotion and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, either on their own property or through a Landcare group.

As a thank you, the prize package worth \$50,000 will help provide the recipient of the award with an opportunity to further develop



their knowledge and skills in sustainable land management.

The winner will also be offered an honorary two-year position with the Australian Landcare Council.

The inaugural recipient will be named during Landcare Week, at a gala dinner at the National Landcare Conference in Sydney.

I strongly encourage the Landcare community to get behind both the Bob Hawke Landcare Award and the National Landcare Conference, held September 3 to 5.

The conference will bring together Landcare and community groups, regional bodies,

international Landcare representatives and government representatives throughout Australia to help ensure a productive and resilient agricultural and environmental future.

The conference will provide delegates with an opportunity to learn about and share innovative practice approaches and solutions, as well as opportunities to renew contacts, build new networks, share ideas and discuss challenges within the wider Landcare community.

It is also an opportunity for the Landcare community to discuss national initiatives such as the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future initiative and the recently launched

National Food Plan as well as the next phase of Caring for our Country.

While on the topic of Caring for our Country I would like to thank those who have already participated in consultation workshops across Australia on the design of the next phase of the program.

Consultations began with a national forum on June 14, 2012, and are based around the booklet Caring for our Country: An Outline for the Future.

The Australian government has also been holding meetings in each state and territory to capture the views of stakeholders across Australia and has been heading out to the regions to talk to our stakeholders.

Anyone with an interest has the opportunity to contribute to the consultation via the Caring for our Country website, by making submissions on discussion papers, contributing to the online discussion forum and answering website quick polls.

The website for the online discussion forum is [www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au](http://www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au).

The framework for the next phase of Caring for our Country was agreed by the Australian government after an extensive period of public consultation in 2011 through which more than 4000 stakeholders and members of the community provided their feedback on the program.

■ For more information on the Bob Hawke Landcare Award visit [www.bobhawkelandcareaward.com.au](http://www.bobhawkelandcareaward.com.au)

■ If you are interested in attending the National Landcare Conference, register at [daff.gov.au/landcareconference](http://daff.gov.au/landcareconference). An Outline for the Future is available for download from the online forum: [www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au](http://www.caringforourcountryreview.com.au)

## Major boost for bush

IN 2009 when Don and Marianne Wilson saw the need for extra bodies to come on board and help regenerate an area of local bush that looked like an "asparagus fern plantation", they didn't realise quite the impact that Bushcare's Major Day Out would have.

The initiative, which was spearheaded by Don and Marianne, with the support of Willoughby Council, has since evolved into a national series of bush regeneration events, taking place as part of Landcare Week each year.

This year, Bushcare's Major Day Out is taking place on Sunday, September 9, and 68 groups from across the country have already registered their interest in being part of the big day – a substantial increase from the 35 events that took place last year across six states and territories.

Don says that, as well as traditional bush regeneration events, this year

has already seen new types of events being included in the calendar, ensuring there is something for everyone, from the dedicated bush regenerator to the novice.

"There is a photographic workshop taking place in Queensland which is being run by Fox Gully Bushcare, weeding and guided walks around a Bushcare site in Sydney being run by Willoughby Council, and even a bird survey in Victoria, thanks to Friends of Merri Creek," Don said.

"The beauty is that you don't need any experience to take part – just come along and we'll show you what to do."

Don recognises the benefits of running Bushcare's Major Day Out during Landcare Week to reach as wide an audience possible and get people involved with the Landcare movement.

"Bushcare's Major Day Out and Landcare Week are hugely important



Bushcare's Major Day Out 2011 participants at Willoughby, NSW.

initiatives because, in addition to everything else, they raise people's awareness of the bush, the value of it, and the importance of looking after those little remnant bits of bush that we've got left," Don said.

"Being part of Landcare Week means we can pool our resources with Landcare Australia and create fantastic momentum together."

For people who are interested in

getting involved in Landcare Week and trying their hand at bush regeneration, this could be the perfect opportunity.

"It's one of the most satisfying things you can do," Don said.

"The bush has such a calming effect on people."

"I heard someone say that the bush is our psychiatrist and our gym, and I think that pretty much sums it up."

Groups who would like to register a Landcare Week or Bushcare's Major Day Out event can do so by emailing event details to [events@landcareonline.com.au](mailto:events@landcareonline.com.au) and [info@bushcaresmajordayout.org.au](mailto:info@bushcaresmajordayout.org.au).

■ If you are interested in attending a Bushcare's Major Day Out or Landcare Week event, please visit [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au) or [www.bushcaresmajordayout.org.au](http://www.bushcaresmajordayout.org.au)



2012 National  
Landcare Awards

## People's Choice Award

Meet the 2012 National Landcare Awards finalists and vote today!  
Voting closes on Tuesday 4th September 2012 at 4pm (EST)

The winner will be announced at the National Landcare Awards on 4th September

Vote and be inspired [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

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## Shaun and Lisa McIntyre, Vic

KARABEAL farmers Shaun and Lisa McIntyre are passionate about the environment, sustainable agriculture and using Landcare to strengthen community bonds.

In 1993, they formed the Panyyabyr Landcare Group.

As president and secretary respectively, have been the driving force behind most of the Group's achievements.

The McIntyres have planned a wide range of activities equally oriented towards productivity and conservation.

They encourage members to create demonstration sites and field trials, and to take on leadership roles on particular interest topics.

They have also been proactive in sourcing funding and seeking technical advice from experts where necessary.

Shaun and Lisa have been involved in many Landcare extension activities and are keen participants in landscape scale projects in the Grampians.

## Chris Scott, NSW

A TRUE Landcare champion, Chris Scott has contributed to the development of the Landcare movement for 18 years.

Chris has worked on the ground and in the boardroom.

He established Wherrol Flat and Caparra Landcare Group in 1994. He was instrumental in establishing Landcare NSW in 2007, and has been a member of the Landcare Australia Advisory Council, the NSW Landcare Working Group and the NSW Natural Resources Advisory Council.



A professional regenerator who is passionate about spreading the Landcare

message, Chris has spoken at many Landcare and community events and delivered numerous workshops to groups, councils and the community.

Chris played an important role in resolving conflicts between Landcarers and the CMAs in the early years of the CMAs in NSW.

## Kathie Stove, SA

KATHIE Stove is one of Kangaroo Island's most active and committed environmental champions.

As president of Friends of Dudley Peninsula Parks, Kathie has increased the group's membership and expanded its activities to all seven conservation parks on the Dudley Peninsula.

She is a member of the Penneshaw Progress Association (PPA) Management Committee and began the PPA subgroup, Greening Penneshaw.

For the past four years, this group has focused on the "Rock to Park" project, which is clearing weeds and establishing native vegetation along the coast.

Kathie has also written a number of successful grant applications for Greening Penneshaw and Friends group activities, as well as an arum lily control plan for Lashmar Conservation Park.

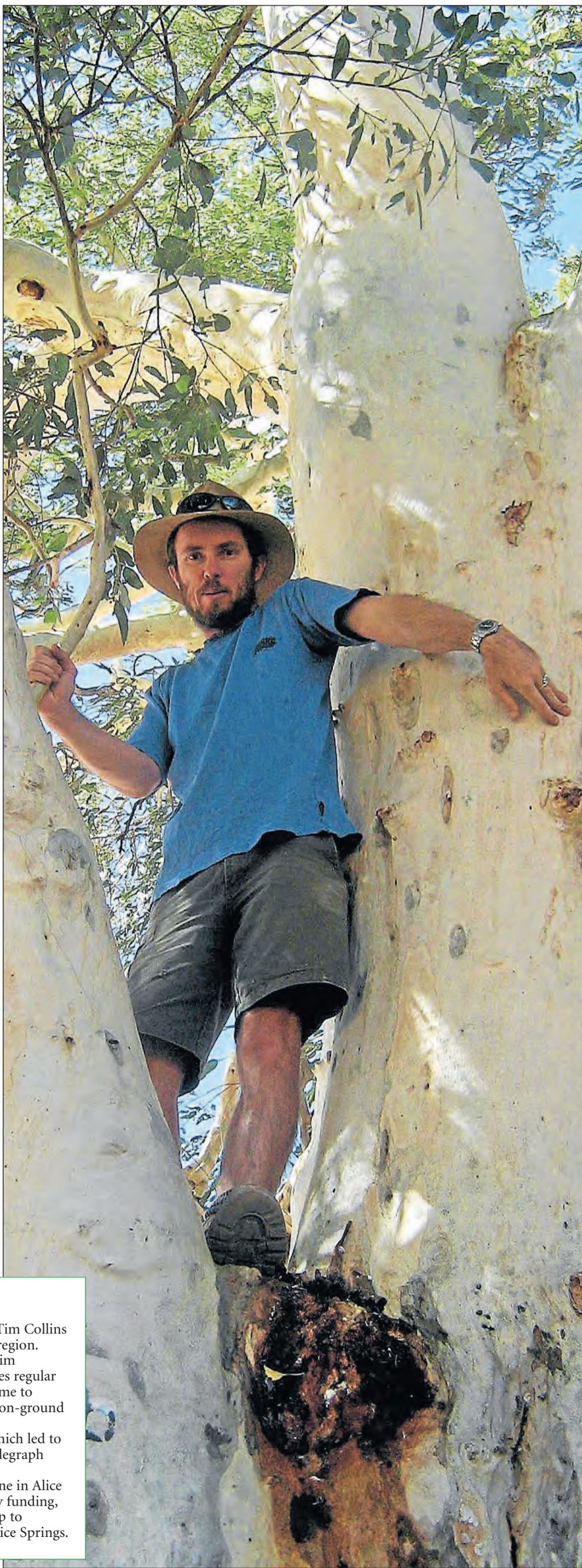
## Tim Collins, NT

OVER the past few years, dedicated Landcarer Tim Collins has waged a war on weeds in the Alice Springs region.

As chairman of Alice Springs Landcare Inc., Tim collaborates with external stakeholders, organises regular volunteer field days, and devotes hours of his time to spraying weeds, slashing buffel grass and other on-ground activities.

Tim organised a Landcare "Cactus Muster", which led to the removal of boxing-glove cactus from the Telegraph Station Historical Reserve.

He also played a key role in removing athel pine in Alice Springs and in securing Caring for our Country funding, which will see him coordinate the removal of up to another 50 athel pine trees across ten sites in Alice Springs.



## Gwen Egg, Tas

GWEN Egg has been a leader in community coastal action in Tasmania for the past two decades.

In 1991, she established the Dodges Ferry/Carlton Landcare Group, now called Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare (SBL/C).

Under Gwen's leadership, SBL/C has negotiated joint management plans with land managers for more than a dozen council reserves, 23 kilometres of coastal reserves and two small offshore islands.

Under her leadership, SBL/C became a founding member of the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania and has supported the development of a number of other local care groups.

Gwen regularly spreads the Coastcare message at community events and uses her work as a fibre artist to educate the community about Coastcare and Landcare issues.

## Heidi Hardisty, WA

SINCE moving to Australia in 2006, Heidi Hardisty has worked to help protect and rehabilitate Lake Claremont, a complex wetland ecosystem.

As coordinator of the Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd (FOLC), she secured FOLC's first \$20,000 grant, which opened the way for the group to win another \$160,000 of grants.

Heidi manages all the planting and recruiting activities for these grants. She also introduced a school community service program at Lake Claremont for local Year 10 students.

Heidi is involved in a number of other environmental organisations and projects, including the Bush to Beach Walking Trail and the Cockatoo Coalition, which aims to protect habitat for threatened black cockatoos.

## Sarah Hnatiuk, ACT

SINCE 2003, dedicated Landcarer Sarah Hnatiuk has worked to improve the condition of Canberra's Mount Painter Nature Reserve.

She is the convenor of the Friends of Mount Painter Park Care Group (FOMP), which aims to restore Mount Painter to a healthy and functioning grassy woodland ecosystem.

She also volunteers for Greening Australia Capital Region, organises monthly working parties, activities and training for existing volunteers and orchestrates large Landcare events to engage the wider community in FOMP activities.

She regularly imparts her skills and knowledge to new members, volunteers and schools, and is a conduit for knowledge she gains elsewhere.

## Glenn Baker, Qld

GLENN Baker has led the North Burnett Landcare Group Inc., of which he is president, in a number of new ventures, including developing the concept of the Monto Botanic Gardens and redeveloping Monto Scout Hall into an "environmental hub".

Glenn secured funding to rehabilitate and enhance the ecological function of two wetlands near Monto township, and played a key role in coordinating the wetlands project.

He organised a "Children's Landcare Day" at the proposed Monto Botanic Garden site and workshops for land managers on sustainable practices.

Glenn has organised workshops to help land managers to improve sustainable management skills, such as wetland assessment, GPS techniques, bush foods, feral animal control, native bee keeping, fire management and managing semi evergreen vine thickets.

He also promotes Landcare at events like the Monto Show and the Dairy Festival.

After recent flooding in the region, Glenn is at the forefront of efforts to get funding for remediating local erosion areas.





## SEQ Catchments, Qld

SEQ Catchments is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation helping to build a sustainable community that cares for and values the natural resources and biodiversity of South East Queensland.

The organisation also encourages people to recognise the impact of personal and collective actions on the environment.

Mobilising the community is vital for addressing environmental issues and identifying projects and partnerships that deliver tangible solutions.

SEQ Catchments works closely with the Queensland and Local Government to promote a balanced, long term approach to land development, infrastructure planning and economic growth, via the award-winning SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan.

## Cradle Coast NRM, Tas

TASMANIA'S Cradle Coast NRM's work reflects its motto that communities working together can better manage and protect natural resources.

Over the past two years the NRM has significantly raised community awareness of natural resource management issues, holding more than 50 capacity-building events, engaged more than 4000 students from 30 schools in environmental education activities, and supported environmental projects to the tune of over \$1 million.

Cradle Coast NRM developed The Cradle Coast NRM Strategy 2010-2015 around the vision of "vibrant communities committed to protecting natural resources and actively involved in managing resources for their environmental, social and economic benefits and values, to ensure a sustainable future for our region".

## Territory NRM, NT

TERRITORY Natural Resource Management (Territory NRM) works with community organisations, pastoralists, indigenous rangers and local government to get results.

It developed the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) 2010-2015 with the broader community, and is backing it up with eExtension workshops, field days and practical on-ground support for land managers.

Throughout the four NT regions, Territory NRM has supported the management of over 135,700ha of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), greatly reducing their impact.

More than 70 people have been trained in weed management, raising the awareness of problem weeds in the wider community.

## West Gippsland CMA, Vic

WEST Gippsland CMA (WGCMA) and the region's Landcare movement have forged a unique partnership that acknowledges Landcare as a key mechanism for the delivery of NRM outcomes.

WGCMA acknowledges the role of Landcare in delivering many of its strategies and plans.

The CMA has developed the Landcare Support Strategy and an annual review that seeks input from the Landcare community.

The WGCMA/Landcare partnership supports five Landcare networks, 70 Landcare groups and almost 2000 members.

The CMA also supports Landcare through grants, sponsoring and promoting Landcare events, and providing project development and financial management support.

WGCMA established the Regional Landcare Forum and the Catchment Ecosystem Advisory Group to aid communication between WGCMA and Landcare.

## Central West CMA, NSW

CENTRAL West CMA takes an inclusive approach to achieve significant sustainable management results in the 85,000km<sup>2</sup> catchment area of the Macquarie, Bogan and Castlereagh Rivers.

Over the past seven years, the organisation has invested more than \$70 million in the delivery of 3200 on-ground projects, all of which have been achieved in partnership with the community towards improved catchment health.

The Central West CMA works in partnership with Landcare, local government, Aboriginal communities, industry, and the wider community to conserve and manage the region's natural resources in line with the vision, "vibrant communities and healthy landscapes", that lies at the CMA's core.



## Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, WA

NORTHERN Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) is a regional NRM group that works across an area of 7.5 million hectares, stretching from Kalbarri in the north to Gingin in the south.

NACC has a vision of "community committed to environmental stewardship".

It works in partnership with a number of community groups, industry and business, individual land managers and government bodies to deliver activities and programs which help conserve and protect the natural resources of the region.

On the ground, NACC helps land managers with assessments, technical advice, on-ground practical assistance and site management plans. Achievements over the past two years include 386 farmers signing ten-year management agreements to address soil condition through plantings of perennial pastures, revegetation of saline land and tree alleys for wind breaks and carbon sequestration.

Recognising the precariousness of the NRM world, NACC has spent two years making changes that include stronger long term contracts with sub-regional organisations adversely affected by Federal and WA State funding programs.

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Did you know the Landbank is home to around 1,000 endangered Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

## John and Vicki Lillico, Tas

BY LETTING nature do the work, John and Vicki Lillico have halved their fertiliser budget but maintained milk production on their 700-cow dairy on "Hindlee Farm", at Smithton, Tasmania.

The Lillicos are using "biological farming" practices to support soil health, encouraging natural fertility cycles rather than shouldering all responsibility for nutrient supply through synthetic fertilisers.

Pasture production has been maintained, pasture and cow health has improved, and they no longer lose some of the

fertiliser they apply down waterways.

In 2008, a shovelful of soil from the Lillicos' pastures may have yielded two earthworms. Now the same soil has 30 to 40 worms.

The roots of pasture plants, which once only grew in the highly fertilised 25mm to 50mm of soil, now forage down to 500mm. Plants have greater resilience to events like drought, and rainfall penetrates much deeper into the soil.

Studies have shown that since "going biological", the Lillicos' plants are more nutritious, their cows are healthier, and the farm is more profitable.

## Northern Territory Agricultural Association, NT

AS TOP End agriculture and land-use changes and evolves, the Northern Territory Agricultural Association is working with industry to develop productive farming systems while managing natural resources more sustainably.

The traditional grazing enterprises of Top End landholders are now growing to include fodder crops, improved pastures and irrigated production systems.

In the past four years, NTAga has brought in more than \$750,000 in Caring for Our Country funding (CfOC) and delivered four key projects aimed at increasing landholders' capacity to better manage their natural resources.

Several publications have been produced including "Striking the Balance 2nd Ed.", the first and only book of its kind to detail sustainable farming and grazing in the Top End.



## Running Creek Feed Test Station, Qld

THROUGH Running Creek Feed Test Station, Matthew Arkinstall and Warren Drynan are giving the cattle industry the means to produce more beef with less grass or grain.

The two Queensland cattlemen have built a testing centre that is helping breeders identify feed-efficient bulls.

This not only means that beef is cheaper to produce, but because cattle are more efficient at turning feed into growth, they produce less methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The results from Running Creek can be entered into BREEDPLAN, the national cattle database, where the data can be used by cattle breeders to predict how a bull's genes will work within their herds.

## Emie Borthwick, SA

AFTER years of drought (and a fire) through the mid-2000s, Emie Borthwick decided to revisit how she produced lamb and wool on her farm at Tumbly Bay, South Australia.

She focused on the ecological foundations of profitability - especially pasture production, with emphasis on growing more pasture through more months of the year, and conserving soil through groundcover and grazing management.

Her comprehensive property plan focused on the ecological foundations of profitability - the farm's soils and pastures, water resources, naturally resilient native grasses and bushland, and livestock shelter.

The investment in fencing, watering systems and pasture improvement is paid for through rising productivity, while the farm as a whole settles onto a more sustainable footing.

## Russell Ford and Rice Research Australia, NSW

IN SOUTHERN NSW, a once-degraded sheep farm is being used to counter the impression that rice production is the wrong crop for the driest inhabited continent on Earth.

Rice Research Australia Pty Ltd (RRAPL) is pioneering new techniques that enable Australian rice producers to harvest more rice from every litre of water they use, in a farm environment that manages conservation and production objectives side-by-side.

While setting new standards for outputs, the research farm "Old Coree", under the management of Russell Ford, is also changing thinking about inputs.

The farm is at the forefront of developing "closed" rice production systems, keeping nutrients and water on the property, while restoring degraded land and actively managing remnant native vegetation along the Billabong Creek.

## Craig Forsyth, WA

UNHAPPY with the management and environmental problems he was grappling with as a mixed wheat/sheep farmer using annual plants, Craig Forsyth shifted his Dongara, WA, farm to a system of perennial pastures grazed by cattle.

Through innovative management, the farm has been moved to a state of constant ecological regeneration, while productivity has lifted substantially.

As he changed the farm's ecology, Craig also changed its economics, pioneering a program that allows northern producers to send stock south for fattening on a shared profit scheme.

The changes made above and below ground each year put Craig on an ever-firmer footing to deal with changes to climate and markets.

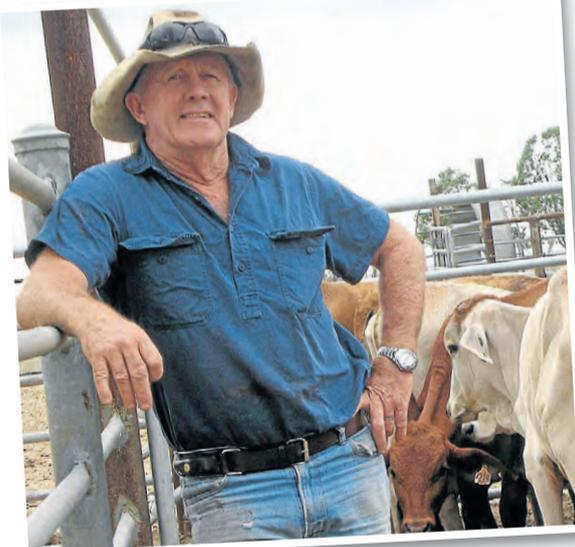
## Gecko CLaN, Vic

FARMERS in central Victoria's Goulburn Broken Landcare Network (Gecko CLaN) are turning to pasture cropping to give them more flexibility against climatic variability.

Pasture cropping allows grazing and a grain harvest from the same paddock, in the same season, using management techniques that promote groundcover and perennial grasses and reduce weeds.

Experimental pasture cropping programs are being conducted across thousands of hectares, with promising early results.

Early indications are that pasture cropping helps to increase groundcover and the diversity of micro-organisms in the soil. Anecdotal evidence also shows an additional and unexpected effect: weed numbers on pasture-cropped paddocks fall off dramatically.



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 Beauty Point Public School (NSW) \* Cowwarr Primary School (VIC) \* Crowdy Head Public School (NSW) \*  
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 Montagu Bay Primary School (TAS) \* North Coast National A & I Society (NSW) \*  
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Over 4000 children and students will be involved in 17 innovative environmental projects that actively engage junior landcarers in environmental initiatives and activities that aim to support protect and or repair the natural environment

For more information visit [www.juniorlandcare.com.au](http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au)



Corporate Express employees volunteering at the Urban Landcare Corporate Volunteer Challenge Day

## Susie Chapman, Qld

SUSIE Chapman's ability to link people, knowledge and funding has led to an increased uptake of sustainable land and coastal management practices across south-east Queensland.

Over 20 years working in the Sunshine Coast region, and Community Partnership Manager for the Sunshine Coast with SEQ Catchments since 2003, Susie has launched and guided many big projects.

The current SunCoast Farm FLOW project brings together organisations to propagate and plant mangroves along the eroded riparian zone of the Maroochy Canelands.

Susie's work has earned her a number of awards, including the Prime Minister's Bicentennial Award for Services to the Community for bringing together a divided community in the Petrie Creek Catchment Group.

## David Broadhurst, WA

WITHIN his role as Regional Landcare Facilitator West for South Coast NRM, David Broadhurst is a leader, mentor and advocate for the Landcare movement.

He has led many noteworthy on-ground projects in the region, with a talent for making limited funds go a long way. For the 2010 Celebrate Landcare Week, David used \$10,000 to engage 810 people in nearly 30 ha of projects.

He created Ladies Day Out for International Womens Day in 2011, managed the Mountains to Coast Pavilion at the Albany Agricultural Show in 2009 and the South Coast NRM's Farm Forestry Futures Forum in 2011, and has helped long-term unemployed work on Landcare projects in Albany.



## Graeme Stevenson, Tas

GRAEME Stevenson has been a passionate and dedicated advocate of Landcare in north-western Tasmania for more than two decades.

His commitment to educating, mentoring and supporting landholders in the area has resulted in significant positive environmental benefits for the region.

Graeme has visited over 400 farms in the past 15 years.

He has also helped educate more than 100 of the state's primary schools students about sustainable farming and spent 11 years at the helm of the Penguin Organic and Sustainable Living Festival.

His efforts have resulted in long-term environmental, economical and social benefits to the whole north-west.

## Bob Jarman, NSW

FORMER dairy farmer Bob Jarman has brought a practical perspective to Landcare during his 20 hands-on years with the movement in the Northern Rivers region.

Instrumental in the founding of many Landcare groups, Bob has helped groups develop substantial change-making projects and then share their learning experiences.

He helped bring in more than \$2 million for on-ground NRM and sustainable agriculture projects in the Northern Rivers Catchment in the last five years alone.

His passion for helping farmers grow sustainable quality produce has an outlet in the Northern Rivers Foodlinks project.

For Foodlinks, Bob helps establish on-farm composting and living mulch trials, speaks at seminars and sources technical advice.

His commitment to farming the land well extends to hands-on involvement: he sharefarms in an accredited organic cropping business and runs a small beef herd using biological farming principles.



## Lisa Roeger, NT

AS THE women's Miyalk Ranger Facilitator for the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation, Lisa Roeger balances a respect toward indigenous culture with the need to mitigate environmental degradation.

Lisa leads a team of women rangers, mentoring them and sharing the practical and botanical knowledge that she has gained from many years in the field.

As a team, with limited funding, the Miyalk Rangers rehabilitated badly eroded coastal land around Nhulunbuy, revegetating it from a nursery they built themselves from materials left over from other projects.

Lisa seeks to build on the Aboriginal connections with the land in ways that help them sustain the land under today's conditions.

## Kim Thompson, SA

WORKING with 560 landholders across the headwaters of the Torrens Catchment, Kim Thompson has helped build the Landcare ethic across a wide area and a broad demographic.

The project officer with the Upper Torrens Land Management Project (UTLMP) since 2008, Kim is the point of contact for the On-Farm Land Management Program, and advisor, event co-ordinator and publicist.

Her field days have covered topics ranging from bushfire prevention plans to pasture management, bird surveys and weed control.

The people she brings together can be landholders or rural lifestyleurs, but they have all been helped by the environmental gains that Kim has helped bring about.

## Belinda Brennan, Vic

WITH more than 20 years of Landcare experience in Western Australia and Victoria, Belinda Brennan has led natural resource management projects, raised Landcare awareness, and built volunteer recruitment programs.

Since Belinda has been the South Gippsland Landcare Network's coordinator, membership of the Network has grown.

She developed a "Welcome to Landcare" pack to be handed to new buyers of land in the South Gippsland region, and developed a volunteer recruitment initiative, 'Revitalise, Renew and Regenerate', that has brought nearly 200 new members to the network since 2009.

The community has become actively involved with projects that provide environmental benefits to the region, including a Community Carbon Program and the Friends of Strzelecki Koalas project.



### BeachCare, Qld

THE Gold Coast's dune care program, BeachCare, manages the natural coastal resources of an area of about 14,000 square metres across 12 sites.

Run by Griffith Centre for Coastal Management (GCCM) at Griffith University, in partnership with Gold Coast City Council, the program tackles coastal environmental issues, including invasive weed management, erosion and the effects of human traffic.

Through hands-on dune management training for volunteers and educational resources, BeachCare has

developed an active network of volunteers who have achieved significant on-ground results.

In 2011, BeachCare participants volunteered over 1750 hours to community Coastcare activities, planted 3034 plants, removed approximately seven tonnes of weeds and collected 86 bags of beach litter.

That represents a doubling of volunteer effort over the past three years.

The program also provides technical advice to residents who want to care for their local or beachfront dunes.

### Friends of the Great South West Walk, Vic

FRIENDS of the Great South West Walk has worked alongside Parks Victoria and other community partners since 1984 to fight against the impact of ongoing erosion and human traffic on the 250km walking track.

The group of 150 volunteers work three days a week to tackle a variety of environmental issues like water run-off, erosion and the spread of invasive weeds.

Through the work of this group, both on-ground and through education, thousands of members of the wider community have been exposed to the natural beauty and environmental significance of the track.

### Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group, SA

FOR more than ten years, Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group has worked in partnership with others on its Murray Mouth Estuary Restoration Project.

The project now embraces more than 600 hectares across more than 80 sites. There were only 12 sites in 2001.

The small volunteer group has forged successful and ongoing partnerships – almost all the local landholders are now involved – which have resulted in 276,000 plants being used to rehabilitate degraded areas.

The result has been an improvement of local ecosystems, the expansion of plant and wildlife habitat and the increase of bird and animal life in the region.

### Darwin Harbour Clean-up, NT

ESTABLISHED in 2010 as a fishing industry initiative, the Darwin Harbour Clean-Up program has seen 36 local businesses and organisations working with government and the local community to remove over three and a half tonnes of rubbish from Darwin Harbour.

The impressive results from just two clean-up days has made genuine progress towards improving water quality and minimising damage to marine environment and wildlife from rubbish and debris.

Through funding from the Australian and Northern Territory Governments, the public are also being made more aware of marine debris issues and are learning about how they can help to be part of the solution – not the problem.

### Green Head Coastcare Group, WA

TWO decades ago the Green Head Townscape committee was formed with the vision to develop the West Australian town in an environmentally friendly way, while maintaining the culture and freedom of the area.

The committee has become the Green Head Coastcare Group, and its focus has increasingly shifted towards the protection and rehabilitation of the fragile coastal environment.

A core project, "Integrating 3 Bays into the Community" has been the basis of a plan for development that will give people safe and environmentally sensitive access to the bathing beaches along the Three Bays Walkway.

The group has also organised a number of events and workshops that promote understanding of local Aboriginal heritage sites and their history.

### Rubicon Coast and Landcare Inc., Tas

RUBICON Coast and Landcare Inc has been working to improve the sustainable use and management of coastal zones in the Port Sorell area.

The dedicated group of 43 members, formed in 1992, holds monthly working bees and works on a variety of other projects which involve weeding, indigenous species planting, path construction and maintenance.

The group works in partnership with a variety of other community groups and organisations to promote regional environmental management issues and raise awareness about the importance of mitigating against the adverse effects of climate change, erosion, land clearance and other natural resource management issues.



### South West Rocks Dunecare, NSW

THE dedicated members of South West Rocks Dunecare have been working since the early 1990s to restore and regenerate the Smoky Cape area of Hat Head National Park.

The group employs a Visiting Volunteer Program and works in partnership with the Mutual Obligation program, which supports unemployed people, to increase its volunteer base and get real regeneration in the area's coastal natural resources.

Over 100 individuals have contributed over 10,000 volunteer hours to the group.

Their work has resulted in the tackling of 1000 hectares of weed infestations and the protection of a highly diverse range of ecotypes, including littoral rainforest and themed grasslands.



## Megan Rowlatt, NSW

MEGAN Rowlatt has been an outstanding recruiter of young people to the Landcare movement.

She founded the Illawarra Youth Landcare group in 2009 after seeing that most Landcare and Bushcare groups in the area had an older demographic and no recruitment strategy for younger people.

Much of her success lies with her constant efforts to attract attention to the group and keep volunteers engaged and learning about local Landcare issues.

Megan has a range of other projects planned, including a City Meets Country Landcare Expedition and a documentary which will delve into why young people are involved in Landcare in the Illawarra region.

## Cate Barham, Vic

CATE Barham dedicates many hours to the Ocean Grove Coastcare Group in her role as secretary, and has worked on numerous conservation activities in the local area.

She has coordinated Coastcare working bees along the Ocean Grove foreshore, "Walk and Talks" along the beach, Clean Up Australia Day events and helped raise awareness of coast and marine issues with many community movie nights.

After hours, Cate raises awareness of local natural resource management issues and the role of the group by writing media releases and running an environmental education program with the Nippers at the Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club.

Her other community engagements include the Barwon Water Environmental Consultative Committee, the Bellarine Landcare Group Nursery, Friends of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve, Friends of Buckley Park and Friends of the Barwon Bluff.

Cate's studies in conservation and land management, and her enthusiasm and passion for the natural environment and the local community, has been a significant asset to the Ocean Grove Coastcare Group.

## Maris Tebecis, ACT

MARIS Tebecis has been influential in developing young environmental leaders in the Canberra community.

Through his involvement with youth at the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) 2010 National Conference, Maris was able to bring together 60 young Australians for four days to explore the role that education has in creating sustainable communities.

He has also acted as a mentor in OzGreen's Youth Leading the World Canberra congress and has developed relationships with Sukyo Mahikari and NRM initiatives such as Greening Australia.



## Marty Bower, Tas

MARTY Bower is committed to raising awareness of local environment issues in the Queenstown area, which has been heavily affected by mining.

Marty has been working on multiple strategies to increase residents' awareness of their local environment, and the benefits of maintaining and improving natural areas.

This is a slow process but Marty persists, recognising the value of

engaging the community in the environmental objectives that the Queenstown Landcare Group is working towards.

Marty also works with Rivers Wildcare, a subgroup of the Tasmanian University White Water Rafting Club, to remove blackberry and other weeds from the banks of Tasmania's more remote and inaccessible wild rivers.



## Tim Harris, WA

AN OUTSTANDING young farmer Tim Harris has shown leadership in promoting conservation and sustainable land management practices around Katanning and beyond.

Apart from significant works on his own property, Tim has been a regular contributor to on-ground Landcare projects, including the SWCC Sustainable Agriculture Program, Young Farmers Kontiki Tours, Red Card for the Red Fox and the Lake Ewlyamartup Working Group.

Through his involvement with sport, Katanning Rural Youth and as guitarist for local band "40 Kays Out", Tim has the ear and respect of his peers.

More than 15 per cent of volunteers at the Lake Ewlyamartup Great Sludge Clean-Out were aged under 30s, in part to Tim's leadership, and passion for engaging young people.

## Jenny Stanton, SA

JENNY Stanton has shown extensive leadership in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity projects on Kangaroo Island.

She is a co-founder of the KI Young Farmers Group and is a manager and leader within the group.

Jenny helped implement an integrated range of projects on her family property near Parndana, and as an agronomist encourages farmers to improve their farming practices to better look after the land – especially improving soil health.

As well as being an active member of Agriculture Kangaroo Island, Jenny sits on the KI NRM Board's Bio-security Advisory Committee, where her role as travelling agronomist is invaluable in the island's fight against weeds.

## Solomon O'Ryan, NT

SOLOMON O'Ryan has shown outstanding leadership as a traditional owner and senior ranger at the Wanga Djakamirr ranger group.

Following the closure of Ramingining Homelands Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation in early 2011, Wanga Djakamirr lost their Ranger Coordinator, and Solomon took on an informal leadership role.

One of Solomon's achievements has been engaging the Wanga Djakamirr rangers in a culturally appropriate way to ensure their involvement of a salt-water intrusion project on the Arafura Swamp.

He has been able to engage the people of Ramingining, Arafura Swamp outstations and the rangers to support the project, while assisting the researchers to conduct their studies in a remote and challenging environment.

## Waanyi/Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust, NT

THE Waanyi and Garawa peoples, the traditional owners of the Waanyi/Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT), are working with other organisations to reconnect traditional people to country.

One of ALT's objectives is to better manage fire to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) as part of the Gulf Fire Abatement Project (GFAP).

The Trust is bringing modern methods to bear on ancient practices. More than 50 fire fuel monitoring sites have been established to provide traditional owners and Bushfires NT with data to measure fuel loads and develop methods to measure savanna fire abatement offsets in the region.

Full-time and casual Waanyi Garawa and Garawa rangers are employed in early dry season burning operations.

In the past few years, achievements have included a 63 per cent reduction of carbon emissions in 2010 – 110,709 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents – along with other activities, like threatened species fauna surveys and carbon abatement studies.

All were undertaken by traditional Waanyi and Garawa landholders.

## Bila Bunyips, NSW

FOR the past four years, the Bila Bunyips have been working with a number of partners to restore and protect Wiradjuri and Wolgalu landscapes across the Tumut region.

Working on sites of significance chosen by the local Aboriginal community, the Bila Bunyips use a range of sustainable land management practices to protect and restore places at risk of cultural and environmental degradation.

With a long list of on-ground achievements to their name, and a focus on sharing their knowledge with the broader community, the Bila Bunyips are reconnecting Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities with their natural surrounds and reinstating important cultural, historical and environmental values.

## Namadgi Rock Art Working Group, ACT

THE Namadgi Rock Art Working Group has established a robust process for the maintenance of indigenous culture.

The development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Namadgi National Park's rock art sites has focused on integrating indigenous ecological knowledge and cultural practices into each planning stage.

Because planning for the conservation of the rock art sites is done in conjunction with the Aboriginal community, indigenous cultural heritage, Aboriginal custodianship and maintenance of lore is protected along with the physical attributes of the sites.

## Nyapuru Margaret Rose – Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, WA

NYAPARU Margaret Rose is a Nyangumarta woman who has been instrumental in bringing the traditional owners of the Pilbara together to ensure they have a strong, united voice in discussions regarding the management of the Pilbara's fragile coastal and marine environments.

Concerned about the dramatic increase in mining and visitation to the Pilbara, Margaret, in her role with Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, played a key part in the development of the Pilbara Indigenous Marine Reference Group (PIMRG).

The Group has representatives from six Pilbara traditional owner groups.

The PIMRG developed the Pilbara Sea Country Plan, which Margaret is now working hard to implement.



### Darren Perry, Vic

DARREN Perry has been pivotal to the success of major environmental infrastructure projects at Mulcra Island, one of north-west Victoria's most culturally-sensitive sites.

Over a three-year period, Darren played a key role in the development of two cultural heritage management plans that enabled indigenous people to have input into the planning and construction of the works on Mulcra Island.

His work also resulted in two cross-cultural training sessions for private construction contractors being held before work began.

These sessions helped workers identify potential issues and build confidence in their ability to work with indigenous people during construction.

## Karpinyeri Incorporated Association, SA

KARPINYERI Incorporated Association (KAI) has transformed the once barren property of Murranghan on the lower Murray River into a thriving landscape of low open woodland and native wildlife.

Members of Karpinyeri have planted more than 100,000 local native plants on the property, removed willows along a 973-metre section of the riverbank and regenerated the bank with river red gums.

KAI is now working on a vegetation corridor to link Murranghan with another local property, Euroka.

Karpinyeri members have hosted young Indigenous people on training courses at Murranghan and plan to share their knowledge with the broader community by holding Landcare workshops and events.

## Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation, Tas

THE Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation (SRAC) has worked on sustainable land management practices for more than five years.

The Corporation has made a significant contribution to indigenous cultural history preservation by identifying and registering over twenty sites on the Tasmanian Aboriginal Site Index.

Its work has helped to guide the formation of the long term vision of the Panatana property, including Marshall Hill, through assisting flora, fungi, fauna and cultural site surveys.

SRAC engages members of the local Aboriginal community through field workshops and youth activities during NAIDOC week.



## Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger and Elders Council, Qld

THE Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger and Elders Council projects have led to a revival of indigenous influence on the natural and cultural landscape of the Bunya Mountains.

Developed in response to the rapid decline of the area's grasslands and other NRM issues, the initiatives began with forums on the relationship between fire, the landscape and traditional burning practices.

That led, in succession, to the formation of the Bunya Partnership Coordination Group (BPCG) and the Bunya Mountains Elders Council. Management plans were developed, and the Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers program established.

The Ranger program is now managed by the Burnett Mary Regional Group, but it will eventually pass onto the Elders group.



## Hobart City Council, Tas

IN PARTNERSHIP with 16 Bushcare groups, Hobart City Council is ensuring Hobart's bushland reserves are protected for the future.

Council supports Bushcare groups with training, technical expertise, supervision, tools and equipment, weed control and site maintenance.

In return, Bushcare groups contribute to conservation works, including habitat protection and restoration, threatened species management and reserve planning.

Council has worked with 11 groups to develop action plans and is currently working on plans for the five remaining groups.

It promotes Bushcare through a newsletter, working bee flyer and Bushcare webpage, and produces education material.

Council also works with groups to organise community events, such as bird monitoring and cultural history walks.

Other partnerships, with other partners have been entered into by Council.

For instance, the "Mountain to Marine" project involves a partnership with Kingborough Council and NRM South to protect and enhance biodiversity linkages between Mt Wellington and the River Derwent.



## Corangamite Shire Council, Vic

CORANGAMITE Shire Council has spent many years working with local community groups on natural resource management projects, and to increase community environmental awareness.

Council gives administrative support to local groups, and helps with grant applications, publicity and event co-ordination.

On the ground, it is working with the Lake Cobden project team to restore the lake's ecological health and improve visitor facilities.

It also has a partnership with the Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf Development Committee to restore Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf reserves.

Among other projects aimed at enhancing conservation values in the community, Council has overseen a biodiversity mapping project and a rural roadside management plan, with help from Landcare and other stakeholders.

## Tweed and Byron Shire Councils, NSW

THE Tweed Byron Bush Futures Project has brought together extensive on-ground works with community engagement to improve the management of urban and peri-urban bushland.

A joint initiative of Tweed and Byron Shire Councils, the project was established using a holistic approach.

The councils brought together people from both jurisdictions, audited 985 hectares of urban bushland, and developed a business plan that engaged other parts of the community.

Along with bush regeneration at 52 sites, community education has been critical to the success of the Project.

It has incorporated on-the-job training of indigenous bush regenerators, the engagement of National Green Jobs Corps teams, and supported local Landcare groups.

## Roper Gulf Shire Council, NT

THE ability of natural resource management programs to engage the community in caring for their town and landscape has been a great motivation for Roper Gulf Shire Council.

The Council's NRM programs are built on strong partnerships with community, all levels of government, and non-government organisations.

For instance, Council's Horticulture and Landcare Project is delivered in partnership with The Fred Hollows Foundation.

It includes weed control and education activities, revegetation in remote communities to reduce dust and wind, and food security and native plant propagation projects.

The Council has a range of award-winning revegetation, waste management and weed and fire management projects.

It also provides training and employment opportunities for remote residents.



## Sunshine Coast Council, Qld

IN ITS mission to make the Sunshine Coast Australia's most sustainable region, Sunshine Coast Council is delivering a range of environmental strategies, plans, programs and projects.

Council has adopted three key strategies – on Climate Change and Peak Oil, Waterways and Coastal Management and Biodiversity.

Each strategy has community consultation and collaboration as a core component.

For example, the successful Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative (SCRI) is delivered by Council in partnership with over 30 stakeholder groups.

Council also runs a range of environmental projects and programs, many funded by an environmental levy program.

## Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council, WA

THE Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) is delivering significant environmental outcomes by engaging the power of partnerships.

One of the EMRC's projects is the Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP), a partnership between the shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring, City of Swan, Perth Region NRM and Swan River Trust.

The EHCMP team works with over 130 "Friends" groups and four catchment groups, providing support for activities from administration to on-ground works.

The EHCMP recognises the contribution of community groups and volunteers by hosting an annual volunteer celebration event, and giving groups access to a "tools trailer".

The Program also engages the wider community through a newsletter, "Greenpage", free workshops and community events.

## ACT Government's Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

A CONSTRUCTED wetland has appeared in Canberra's O'Connor district, thanks to a partnership between the ACT Government's Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) and the Banksia Street Wetland Carers.

The Banksia Street Wetland Carers aim to improve water quality and biodiversity in the Sullivans Creek Catchment and provide recreational, volunteering and educational opportunities.

A series of community days and regular plantings by the Wetland Carers have resulted in thousands of local-provenance reeds, grasses, plants, shrubs and trees planted at the site.

The wetland has already attracted macro-invertebrates, frogs, tortoises and various birds.

**Elizabeth Balderstone, Vic**

IN THE mid-1990s, Elizabeth Balderstone sat down and planned out how she could put her Gippsland farm on a sustainable environmental and economic footing.

Today, despite years of crippling drought, she has a thriving mix of farm enterprises set within nearly 200 hectares of protected remnant vegetation, waterways and biodiversity plantings.

Substantial progress has been made towards achieving the original aim of protecting and enhancing the biodiversity, aesthetics and general health of the environment of "Warrigal Creek".

These goals are always balanced with the need to constantly improve and review the long-term productivity and sustainability of its agricultural enterprises.

**Craig Forsyth, WA**

UNHAPPY with the management and environmental problems he was grappling with as a mixed wheat/sheep farmer using annual plants, Craig Forsyth shifted his Dongara, WA, farm to a system of perennial pastures grazed by cattle.

Through innovative management, the farm has been moved to a state of constant ecological regeneration, while productivity has lifted substantially.

As he changed the farm's ecology, Craig also changed its economics, pioneering a program that allows northern producers to send stock south for fattening on a shared profit scheme.

The changes made above and below ground each year put Craig on an ever-firmer footing to deal with changes to climate and markets.

**John and Susan Wardle, Tas**

ON TASMANIA'S North Bruny Island, the "Waterview" farm is conserving habitat for endangered species like the forty-spotted pardalote while being run as a profitable wool enterprise.

Nearly half of Waterview is being managed for conservation goals.

Waterview's owners, John and Susan Wardle, and their manager Conrad Daniels, have planted about 6700 trees and shrubs of local provenance across the property, consolidating its value as habitat for a range of bird species.

Techniques for farming more efficiently are now being explored on Waterview with the aim of further lightening the property's environmental footprint.

**Chris and Marie Muldoon, NT**

ON "MIDWAY" their family's station, Chris and Marie Muldoon began the first commercial cell grazing program in the Top End with the aim of boosting pasture and soil health.

The results have been dramatic.

They are producing 50 per cent more beef than the standard benchmark for the Douglas Daly region, have almost eliminated fertiliser use and have dropped herbicide use by three quarters.

The property is now more resilient to the climatic extremes of the Top End.

As the structure of soils improves, they capture and retain more rainfall, but with higher levels of groundcover are also more robust under floods.

**Danny Flanery, NSW**

DANNY Flanery has been building strong ecological foundations on his family's southern NSW farm, while introducing management strategies that simultaneously support the environment and farm profitability.

The farm's stock numbers and cropping area have fallen over the past decade.

Danny now runs his Merino flock at eight DSE per hectare, compared to 11 DSE before the drought of the 2000s.

But the output of each enterprise has increased, maintaining overall production.

And a focus on soil health has made the farm less reliant on costly fertiliser, while increasing its resilience to climatic extremes.

**Sherry McArdle-English, ACT**

AFTER changing careers eight years ago, Sherry McArdle-English and her husband joined the ranks of Australia's very few truffle growers.

In doing so they turned bare, degraded land on the outskirts of Canberra into a thriving deciduous forest that will sequester carbon throughout its 100 plus-year life.

Sherry has also become an advocate for landholders living at the urban-rural interface.

She has established the Majura Valley Landcare Group, of which she is President, and is a strong leader in efforts to have natural and heritage values recognised and protected in the face of inevitable development.



## Balala-Brushgrove Landcare Group, NSW

Since 1989, the Balala-Brushgrove Landcare Group has tackled landscape health through a mix of revegetation and erosion works, and exploration of on-farm practices that pair productivity and sustainability.

Gully erosion control is a major issue for the area. After a 2003 project rehabilitated a severely eroded waterway with a concrete flume, the site has been frequently used as an education tool.

The group works in partnerships on a broad range of soil health and grazing management projects, like a three year trial to examine how spreading bentonite clay affects pasture development and water holding capacity.

Properties of group members have featured as case studies to demonstrate sustainable land management practices.

## Friends of Willow Park Inc., Vic

FRIENDS of Willow Park Inc (FOWP) has fully embraced the community in its efforts to bring greater ecological health to the park.

Through activities such as monthly gardening, water quality monitoring, guest speaker evenings and a newsletter, FOWP has protected and conserved the park since 2006.

FOWP forged a partnership with the City of Wodonga to develop a community-led Master Plan which will guide the future of Willow Park over the next 25 years.

One of its many outreach activities is monthly "community gardening in the park" sessions. In three years, thousands of grasses, shrubs and trees have been planted during these sessions, adding to the biodiversity and health of the park and creek.

## Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group, SA

In working to restore the habitat of the Murray mouth estuary, Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group (HILG) has over the past decade worked with 600 hectares over which it has planted 276 000 local native plants.

The removal and destruction of habitat has been a major contributor to the significant drop in bird numbers in the region.

The group provides technical support and advice to more than 100 Hindmarsh Island residents, and supported the formation of the Community Nursery Network.

This is made up of nine community-based native plant nurseries distributed around the Coorong, lower lakes and Murray Mouth region.

## Red Hill Regenerators, ACT

OVER the past 22 years, Red Hill Regenerators (RHR) has transformed Red Hill from an area choked with weeds and used as a rubbish dump into one of the largest and most diverse areas of box-gum woodlands in Australia.

In 1990, 168 hectares or 53 per cent of Red Hill was dominated by woody weed. By 2011, that area had fallen to

40 hectares, or 13 per cent, through the efforts of the RHR and Canberra Nature Park staff. In the same period, the area of very high quality woodland rose from 21pc to 131pc.

In a similar vein, numbers of the regionally endangered button wrinklewort plant have risen from 1475 in 1984 to 5500 today.

The RHR have also campaigned against land-clearing for residential developments in Red Hill and nearby areas.

As a result, significantly less woodland has been cleared than originally proposed and there is greater recognition of the value of woodland when making decisions about land use.



## Toowoomba Landcare Group, Qld

TOOWOOMBA Landcare Group's project "Adapt, Adopt and Apply: Landcare Achieving Sustainable Farming and Biodiversity Targets in the Cooby Catchment" has had effects well beyond its original boundaries.

A project that initially engaged Toowoomba Regional Council, two Landcare Groups, 25 landholders and technical specialists, the results were eventually passed on to more than 100 landholders.

Measured environmental benefits included increased control of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) over 400 hectares, an improved aquatic ecosystem, erosion control over 200 hectares and the establishment of a native plant community nursery.

The project also increased the skills and knowledge of the community.

## Land for Wildlife, NT

THE Land for Wildlife Group, founded in 2002, provides free expert advice on ecological and land management issues to its members.

This approach has created large areas of protected habitat, allowing wildlife to move freely through the landscape and, in turn, encouraging genetic diversity and reducing the isolation of threatened populations.

The group operates through local newspapers, social networking sites, online blogs and monthly newsletters, and holds regular workshops.

Success is measured during annual biodiversity surveys on four to six member properties.

The group now advises more than 300 member properties, covering more than 15,000 hectares across Central Australia and the NT.

## Friends of Adventure Bay Inc., Tas

OVER seven years, the Friends of Adventure Bay Incorporated group has galvanised a diverse community into action and worked to plan, restore and protect the bay's foreshores.

Projects to date include the stabilisation and repair of 3km of coastal foreshore, the planting of 2000 endemic trees and shrubs and 12,000 poa grass plants, and the construction of ten sand-ladders for safe community beach access.

The Friends' approach has been inclusive and balanced, so that foreshore management is in line with the environmental, social and developmental goals of the wider community.

This has led to development of a widely accepted plan for the future of Adventure Bay.

## Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group, WA

SINCE 1998, the Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group (EBICG) has delivered more than 200 Landcare projects in the Ellen Brook and Brockman River catchments.

Collectively, that adds up to the planting of more than one million native trees and shrubs, the protection of over 100 kilometres of waterways by fencing out livestock, the establishment of 150 hectares of perennial pastures, the restoration of 10 kilometres of waterways, the rehabilitation of Belhus Reserve, and contributing to the establishment of Chittering Landcare Centre.

Monitoring and the sharing of results feature strongly in the Group's activities and community education is a priority.



## Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board's Coastal Gardens Planting Guide, SA

THE Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board's Coastal Gardens Planting Guide (CGPG) was created to help coastal residents with plant identification.

The CGPG promotes environmentally sound gardening practices, offers suitable indigenous alternatives to garden escape weeds, and provides advice for local conditions while acknowledging drought and the challenges of water restrictions.

The guide demonstrates, in a practical fashion, the fantastic variety of native plants that can be used in a colourful, attractive garden.

It provides step-by-step guidance on what plant works best for a particular site or need, how it can be used in different landscaping styles, as well as maintenance and purchase advice.

As residents have learnt more about local coastal plants, they have become curious about the work of local community groups.

That has boosted membership and assistance at planting events within the dunes.

The guide is also an important resource for environmental community groups, including Coastcare groups.

## Gold Coast Catchment Association, Qld

IN 2001, because of concerns about urbanisation pressures on green corridors and a need for an integrated approach to catchment management, the Gold Coast Catchment Association (GCCA) was formed.

The GCCA forms an umbrella organisation of people and groups who actively work on ecological restoration in the Gold Coast catchment.

The association takes on natural resource management on a regional scale, with the aim of enhancing water quality, habitat and recreational value.

It has played a leading role in many initiatives such as Catchment Scorecard and PlatypusWatch, and maintains an informative website and partnership programs with the Gold Coast City Council.



## Darwin International Airport, NT

DARWIN International Airport (DIA) has worked to strike the delicate balance between development and environmental protection.

DIA's focus is the fragile Rapid Creek system, Darwin's most important freshwater ecosystem, which was being degraded by weeds, fire, dumping and other pressures.

Since taking up the area's lease in 1998, DIA installed a 75 metre wide buffer zone from the middle of Rapid Creek to the airport lease boundary to conserve the Marrara wetland, and set aside a 15-hectare conservation site south that encourages the movement of animals between otherwise isolated populations.

With help from Greening Australia and The Larrakia people, DIA also established the Matboerrma Gardens, which welcomes visitors to the Top End.

## Georges River Combined Councils Committee, NSW

SINCE 2009, Georges River Combined Councils Committee (GRCCC) has been playing a leading role in community-based water quality assessments through its collaborative Community River Health Monitoring Program.

It is the largest centrally coordinated water quality monitoring effort in New South Wales.

The program covers a catchment area of about 960 square kilometres, home to more than 1.2 million people.

GRCCC harnesses the community in its ecological assessments of the Georges River catchment.

Strong partnerships have been formed between local government, natural resource management agencies and community groups.

More than 400 volunteers have put in over 1700 hours on the Community River Health Monitoring Program in the past three years.

## Friends of Mount Majura, Mount Ainslie Weeders and Watson Woodland Working Group, ACT

THREE committed groups – Friends of Mount Majura, Mount Ainslie Weeders and Watson Woodland Working Group – between them contribute substantially to the management of remnant bushland reserves within Canberra Nature Park.

Together, these groups work on the many issues associated with urban bushland areas, like pest plants and animals, illegal rubbish dumping, protecting native species and erosion.

The groups hold monthly working bees to give the wider community an opportunity to learn about the reserves through active participation.

They also co-ordinate on-ground rabbit warren monitoring programs, revegetation plantings, and weeding and litter collection.

The groups' collaboration ensures a steady flow of knowledge, resources and enthusiastic volunteers.

## Bellerive Bluff Land and Coast Care Group Inc, Tas

SINCE 2001 the Bellerive Bluff Land and Coast Care Group Inc (BBLCCG) has been tending to a degraded stretch of the Derwent River opposite Hobart's CBD.

The group's members have re-stabilised the old China Bay landfill site and built numerous gardens planted out with native species, including more than 5000 trees.

BBLCCG's community construction crew have built a viewing platform, several dry-stone walls and three stormwater sediment control ponds, among other structures.

The group also co-ordinates the efforts of a range of community organisations that together involve residents, community and school groups, the prison, polytechnic students and the Clarence Council in the rehabilitation of Bellerive Bluff.

# THE MORE THE MERRIER

Us folks at Be Natural believe you can never have too much of a good thing. Which is why we're supporting the growth of Landcare Australia.

This year, to help kick-start local environmental projects like community gardens, urban spaces and inner-city vegie patches, we're offering 20 grants of up to \$2,500 each.

Applications open at the end of August, but in the meantime, visit [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au) to see how you can get involved.

### Corowa South Public School, NSW

COROWA South Public School students engage with parents and the local community to tackle NRM issues.

The school has close ties to the Murray CMA through the Creative Catchment Kids Program and the Murray Catchment Action Plan Targets.

One of the most significant projects that the school has undertaken is the construction of a garden to attract the threatened Diamond Firetail Finch.

Working with a botanist, students developed a native grass and shrub planting plan and used storm-felled trees to create an attractive habitat that also serves as a living study area.

This project alone has enabled students to gain leadership opportunities through their involvement in school decision-making, and the opportunity to work with NRM leaders and promote environmental education in the school and community.

Corowa South Public School also uses its environmental learning program as a way to engage their students in art and photography. Students have been highly successful in art competitions.



### Ballarat Christian College, Vic

BALLARAT Christian College runs an environmental program, The Creek Project, which encourages students to develop their skills in natural resource management. The project is coordinated by Year 9 students, and is centred around the creek that flows through the school grounds.

Students dedicate seven hours a week to the project, which is integrated into the curriculum.

Students work closely with the Corangamite CMA staff, who mentor students and support them as they share what they have learnt with other young people at the school and throughout the wider community.

### Sts Peter and Paul Primary School, ACT

STS PETER and Paul Primary School has constructed a new Environmental Education Centre, which makes use of the latest environmental technologies and includes a student kitchen - a great learning opportunity for students to discover the benefits organic, fresh, healthy, sustainable and home-grown food.

All students attend weekly hands-on sessions in environmental studies, and are taught environmental science, sustainability and organic gardening.

Three times a term, each student works with community volunteers to prepare nutritious and tasty meals with their fresh organic produce.

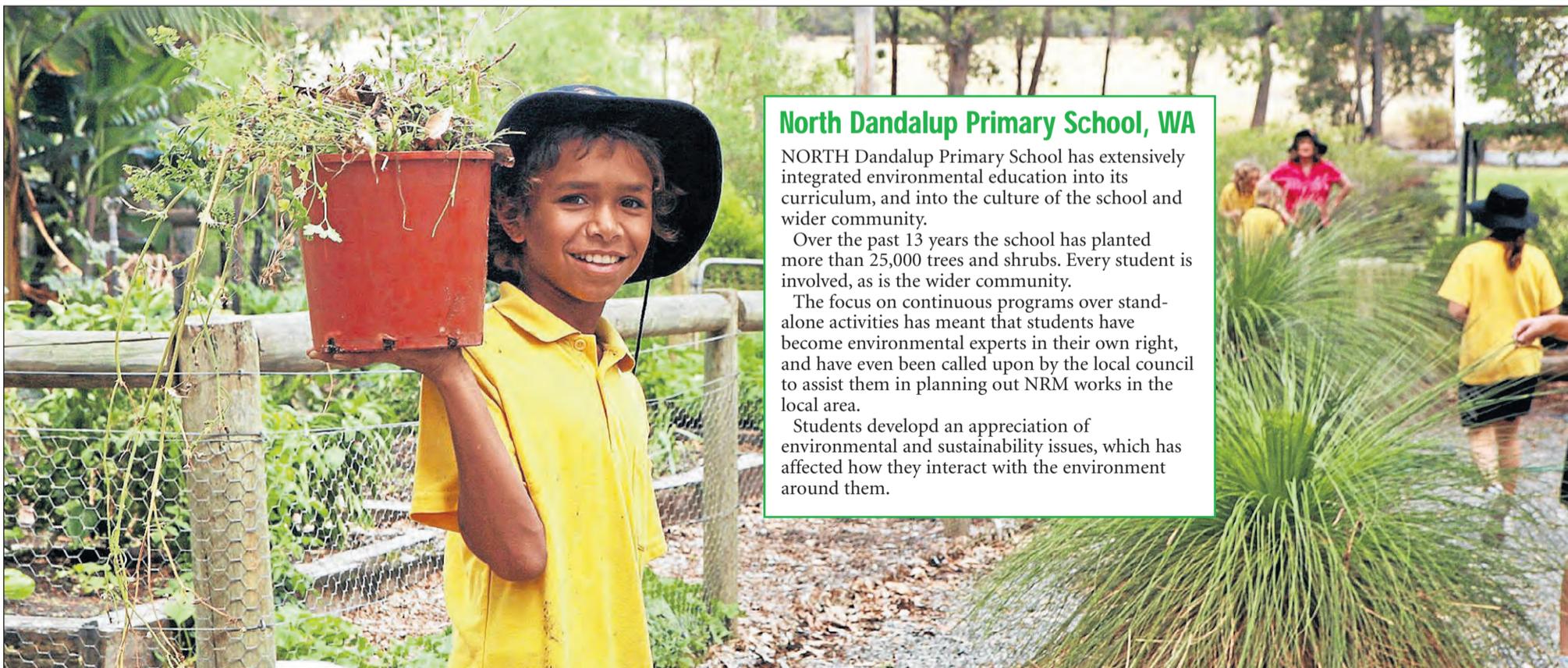
The school's philosophy is to educate all of its students so that they develop a holistic understanding of their environment and the skills required to look after and participate in it.

### Waikerie Youth Environment Team, SA

THE Waikerie Youth Environment Team (YET) began in 2005 with 12 passionate students who built on a vision for a student-driven environment team.

YET has subsequently worked on a wide range of projects within the school and community, including Water Watch testing, propagation of native plants and a peer teaching program where YET members present lessons to younger students in their own and other schools.

In response, the school has set up an Environmental Education shed. The facility enables community members to drop off recyclables, making up for the lack of curb-side recycling in the town, and complements the Chooks and Children yard, the Bush Tucker Garden and the in-progress Outback Garden.



### North Dandalup Primary School, WA

NORTH Dandalup Primary School has extensively integrated environmental education into its curriculum, and into the culture of the school and wider community.

Over the past 13 years the school has planted more than 25,000 trees and shrubs. Every student is involved, as is the wider community.

The focus on continuous programs over stand-alone activities has meant that students have become environmental experts in their own right, and have even been called upon by the local council to assist them in planning out NRM works in the local area.

Students develop an appreciation of environmental and sustainability issues, which has affected how they interact with the environment around them.

### Mount Whitestone Primary School, Old

MOUNT Whitestone Primary School, which services part of Queensland's Lockyer Valley, has encouraged its 19 students to engage the community in the sustainability and biodiversity projects woven into the school curriculum.

The community, in turn, has provided considerable in-kind support, especially with supplies like plants, logs, bark and composting bins. Many parents and community members have adopted sustainability and biodiversity practices in their own homes - a demonstration of how initiatives originating in this tiny school have gone on to have a meaningful impact on the rest of the community.

### Youngtown Primary School, Tas

THE Youngtown Primary School environmental program enables students to work on the rehabilitation of Glenara Lakes with other members of the community.

Students work alongside adult mentors, where they learn to plant a variety of plant species and learn about proper plant handling and soil preparation. They are involved in discussion about habitat regeneration for macro-invertebrates and frogs, and alongside local residents, students have built and placed trial swan nesting boxes.

This intergenerational project has led to a long lasting partnership between the primary school students and senior citizens.

### Indigenous Kormilda, NT

INDIGENOUS Kormilda students visited Elcho Island to work with Parks and Wildlife Service (NT), Gumurr Marthakal Rangers and RMIT University on a project that linked environmental science and traditional knowledge. The students talked with elders, recorded information about traditional techniques, and reported whether the abundance of certain plants and animals had changed over the elders' lifetimes.

Students also considered ways to ensure the sustainability of these animals and have actively shared their new-found knowledge with the wider community. The knowledge they gained was incorporated into a poster that was distributed across the NT.



# Blazing an eco-wine trail

By JACINTA ROSE

**T**AYLORS Wines has long been at the forefront of the wine industry's move towards environmentally sustainable production, breaking new ground and providing a positive example for fellow producers.

The Clare Valley wine producer was the first Australian winery to achieve ISO14001 accreditation – an environmental management practice standard that helps organisations minimise how their operations negatively affect the environment.

"While winemaking techniques and processes may have changed over the three generations of winemaking in our family, our commitment to the environment has remained constant," said sales and production project manager Clinton Taylor.

The company's environmental focus encompasses all aspects of the business, with green initiatives including water recycling, composting, vineyard mulching, revegetation and tree planting embraced.

Lightweight glass bottles have been introduced to three of Taylor Wines' most popular ranges – Eighty Acres, Promised Land and Taylors Estate.

Taylors Wines is also tackling the biggest user of energy in the winery.

Refrigeration systems are estimated to account for between 60 and 65 per cent of the annual energy costs incurred in the winemaking process.

"To reduce our energy consumption we

have embarked upon a project to replace 50pc of the refrigeration plant with energy efficient ammonia refrigeration," Mr Taylor said.

"The new refrigeration plant was put to the test this vintage – our 40th vintage – and resulted in energy savings of over 20 pc."

Water is viewed as a valuable resource and every effort is made to minimise its use both in the vineyard and winery.

"We manage and minimise our water consumption through the use of lined dams, storm water harvesting, vineyard mulching to reduce evaporation and computer controlled, 'need-only' drip-fed irrigation as well as the use of a state-of-the-art wastewater recycling plant to recycle 100pc of the wastewater generated by our winery and bottling hall for reuse on our vineyards," he said.

Taylors Wines' commitment to environmentally friendly practices extends to its Sydney head office, which in 2009 was jointly awarded ISO14001 certification along with the environmental management system at the Clare Valley winery.

That certification was extended to all the company's State offices in late 2011.

In order to better understand where further environmental improvements can be made, the Taylors team has utilised Eco-mapping techniques.

"The purpose of Eco-mapping is to provide a visual, simple and practical tool to analyse and manage our environmental practices," he said.

Eco-mapping involves the creation of

visual "mud maps", enabling the team to audit the environmental impact across a number of key measures, including water consumption, noise and air emissions, soil contamination and environmental risks.

In 2009, Taylors Wines again broke new ground when it released its Eighty Acres range, the world's first 100pc carbon neutral wine, achieved by auditing emissions at every stage of the wine's production.

The use of lightweight bottles provided a major emission saving, reducing carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by more than 15pc.

"We then offset 100pc of our remaining carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by buying government approved Verified Emission Reduction units (VERs)," he said.

"The VERs we purchase through Carbon Neutral have been generated through avoided emissions from a project at the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council waste composting facility in Western Australia."

Despite all that Taylors Wines has already achieved, the team is determined to continue its drive towards environmental sustainability, with many more energy saving projects in the pipeline.

That includes the division of the winery's barrel hall into two temperature zones, the colder one for premium wine maturation and the warmer for wine fermentation.

Mr Taylor said the barrel hall partition would reduce the space needed to be heated by about 40pc.

■ Visit [taylorswines.com.au](http://taylorswines.com.au)



Taylors Wines sales and production project manager Clinton Taylor says the family's commitment to the environment has remained constant over three generations.

## How does your backyard grow?

WHETHER it's a farm, a suburban veggie patch or an apartment balcony herb garden, Yates and Junior Landcare are asking kids around Australia, "How does your backyard grow?"

The 2012 Yates Junior Landcare Backyard Challenge is getting kids to answer this question with a short film or series of photos, allowing them to showcase the unique aspects of their local environment.

The challenge is a fantastic opportunity for young people to explore their backyards, learn how plants grow, and share what they have learnt with other kids and the wider community.

Yates Communications Manager and prominent gardening expert Judy Horton believes the challenge will be a great chance for kids to discover the amazing natural wonders in their own backyards.

"No matter where you are in Australia, from the tropics to the outback and everything in between, young people only need to look to their own



Abby and Maddy start working on their entries.

backyards to learn about nature and see how plants grow," she said.

"Getting involved in a project like this will give kids a genuine appreciation for the natural environment around them."

Yates and Junior Landcare expect to see a range of themes, which could

include: a thriving herb garden that is used in the family's cooking; a community garden where neighbours grow and share their produce; a garden that has been hit by floods and in the process of rehabilitation; a prized bed of roses that requires lots of maintenance and care, or the chal-

lenges posed by snails and bugs that live in the veggie patch.

Landcare Ambassadors Jack Thompson and Catriona Rowntree are coming on board as judges for the challenge, and their film and television careers will bring a great deal of experience to the judging process.

There will also be stills cameras and video cameras from Canon Australia up for grabs, as well as Yates and Junior Landcare prize packs.

The challenge is open to all kids living in Australia, aged 8 to 16 years.

Those eligible can enter as individuals, or as part of a family, school group or any other community group that involves young people, including Scouts and Girl Guides.

The Yates Junior Landcare Backyard Challenge will launch on Monday, September 10, 2012, with entries to be submitted by Friday, November 16, 2012.

Winners will be announced in the first week of December.

■ Further information is available at [www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au](http://www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au)



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

Landcare In Focus is proudly supported by the Australian Government Caring for our Country program and published by Landcare Australia Limited.

For more information or to submit an article, email [enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au)

Please note that due to space restrictions we cannot guarantee that all submissions will be included.

All submissions must adhere to the following guidelines and include:

- One article of no more than 300 to 600 words saved as a Microsoft Word document or a PDF.
- No more than 2 to 3 high resolution (must be at least 1MB in size) images that clearly illustrate the accompanying article.
- Full captions for each attached image that explain who is in the photos and/or what they illustrate. Also, please ensure that we have permission from any people featured in the photos to use these photos in Landcare In Focus
- Contact information for more information if required

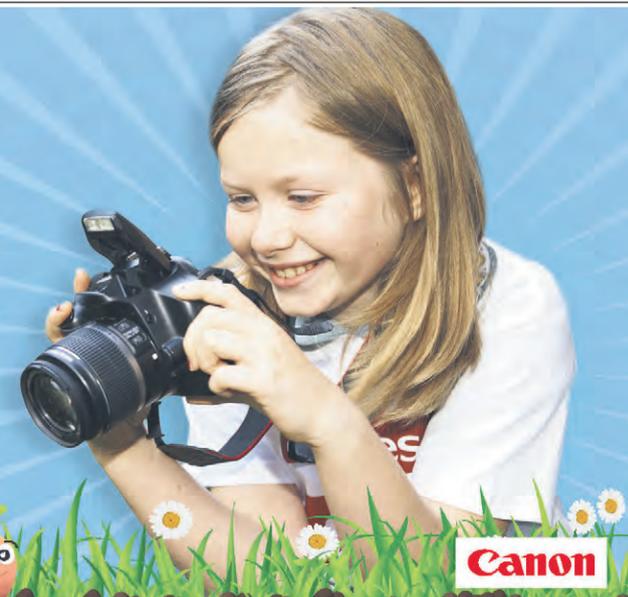
The final edition for 2012 will be published on November 1, and the deadline for submissions is October 5.

To receive your complimentary copy please contact us on [enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au)

Yates Junior Landcare  
Backyard Challenge  
**Register Now**

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

Awesome  
prizes from  
Canon  
Australia  
up for  
grabs!!



Yates

Junior  
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Canon

## In Brief

**Keep up to date:** Landcare Australia's free e-newsletters are a great way of keeping up to date with all the latest Landcare news, campaigns, project case studies and funding opportunities.

There's one for everyone, with Landlink and the Junior Landcarer published on a monthly basis, and the Coastcarer being distributed every two months.

Simply visit [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au) to sign up today.

If a monthly dose of news just isn't enough, you can also follow us on Twitter, @LandcareAust, or like us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/landcareaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/landcareaustralia)

### Register your group:

Has your group been registered on the National Landcare Directory, a national database of thousands of care groups, schools, councils and environmental organisations?

Being part of the directory is a great way to make sure your group appears on the national map of the Landcare movement, can easily be found by potential new volunteers, and can help you promote your events and publish stories about your groups' projects and achievements.

Sign up your group today at [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

**Landcare Week:** If your group is holding an event as part of Landcare Week, which takes place from September 3 to 9, please email the details to [events@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:events@landcareaustralia.com.au) so we can include it on our national events calendar.

Groups can also download Landcare Week branded flyers, posters, web ads and other promotional collateral from [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

**Grant recipients:** Details of the schools, youth groups or daycare centres that have been funded through our most recent Junior Landcare grants programs can now be found online by visiting [www.juniorlandcare.com.au](http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au).

The recipients listed include those who have recently received Coles School Garden Grants, CitiPower Powercor Powerful Partnerships Grants, and Corporate Express Go Green Grants.

A list of farming groups and organisations that have received Woolworths Fresh Food Future funding to undertake projects that will improve water use, nutrient management or the carbon footprint of their farming operations will be announced next month on [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)



Victorian dairy farmers are trialling methods to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions from cattle as part of the government's Action on the Ground program.

# Exploring carbon options

Australian farms are "on trial" in the first round of an innovative government program to reduce greenhouse gases

New research funding worth \$25.2 million is helping more than 420 farmers and land managers across the nation trial on-farm practices to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and increase soil carbon.

Announced in May, the first 59 projects in round one of the government's \$99m Action on the Ground program are part of a six year commitment to assist land managers identify and develop farm practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide by increasing and storing carbon in soil.

Julie Gaglia from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry said the Action on the Ground program was part of the government's Land Sector Package — Carbon Farming Futures program that would invest \$429m in projects to help land managers participate and benefit from reducing agri-

cultural greenhouse gas emissions.

"Action on the Ground is about helping landholders to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions like nitrous oxide and methane, and increase carbon stored in soil," Ms Gaglia said.

"By applying research outcomes in real farming situations, it will also provide increased opportunities for farm-

Land managers, grower and Landcare groups, universities and research and development corporations were among the successful Action on the Ground round one grant recipients.

The funded projects are due to be completed by June 2015.

The properties where these projects will take place represent a broad range

solved nutrients to prevent their decomposition and release of greenhouse gases.

In the Mackay-Whitsunday region of north Queensland, Reef Catchments Limited will work with land managers to trial and demonstrate a range of on-farm management practices for sugarcane, bananas and wet tropical grazing to reduce nitrous oxide emissions and increase sequestration of carbon in soil.

These projects will help land managers trial practices to assess and demonstrate practical changes that can be made on-farm to their management practices to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon in soil.

Project data may also be used to develop CFI methodologies providing new income options for land managers.

The next round of Action on the Ground will be announced in early 2013.

Further information, including details of successful projects is available at [daff.gov.au/climatechange](http://daff.gov.au/climatechange).

By applying research outcomes in real farming situations, (the Action on the Ground program) will also provide increased opportunities for farmers and land managers to participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative

ers and land managers to participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative," she said.

The Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) is a key part of the government's Clean Energy Future plan.

Under the CFI, the government will help facilitate the sale of carbon credits on domestic and international markets, opening up new income streams for farmers and landholders across regional Australia.

of climatic and geographic farming conditions associated with the dairy, livestock (grazing and feedlot industries), horticulture (sugar cane, fruit production, root crops and viticulture) and broadacre cropping industries.

In the Victorian dairy industry, company Zero Discharge is trialling algae to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions from effluent lagoons on dairy farms.

The algae capture solids and dis-

## Australian Landcare Council News

THE Council has been busy with the 52nd meeting being held in Lismore in May 2012.

A highlight for the council has been completion of the Community Call for Action prepared on behalf of the Landcare community. The Community Call for Action is the companion document and implementation guide for the Australian Framework for Landcare.

The Framework outlines strategies identified by the community that can strengthen the Landcare approach into the future.

The Council has also endorsed advice on key issues for submission to Australian Government Ministers, including:

- how to better incorporate and support Landcare groups in regional delivery

- volunteer recruitment and retention
- how to support farmers to prepare for and adapt to climate change and how to engage the Landcare movement in this issue

- how to better report and share Landcare achievements

A key research project sponsored by Council will illustrate the multiple benefits

and outcomes of natural resource management and Landcare, looking beyond production and environmental outcomes to social, cultural, economic, health, education and community resilience.

For more information on the Council's activities, visit [www.daff.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/council](http://www.daff.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/council)



The Qantas Foundation has partnered with Landcare Australia since 2009 providing support to eight community environmental projects across Australia.



The Qantas 'Green Team', a group of volunteer employees who are committed to environmental initiatives, have joined forces with local Landcare groups and provided over 650 volunteer hours to help protect and repair our precious environment.