

# Landcare's conference of decade

**W**ITH less than a month to go until the biennial National Landcare Conference, organisers have been busy fine-tuning a diverse and comprehensive program.

Topics span: climate effects on farming; innovative approaches to land management; volunteer outreach; and the economic drivers of doing good.

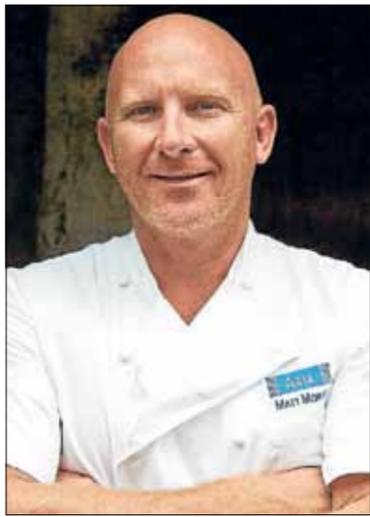
From big-picture trends analysis down to case studies of numerous successful projects Australia-wide, it will provide robust discussions on government programs, presentations by peak bodies and a panel that includes several inspiring Landcare pioneers. The event should prove to be as diverse as the movement itself, while traversing Landcare's 25-year history.

The conference will host an impressive line-up of speakers, which includes renowned chef and former farm boy Matt Moran, CSIRO Futures leader Dr Stefan Hajkowitz and environmental behaviour change researcher Tanya Ha. ABC TV *Landline* presenter Pip Courtney will piece together the various presentations as master of ceremonies. Included are presentations by the federal government on the new National Landcare, 20 Million Trees and Green Army programs, presentations by National Landcare Awards finalists, Landcare groups and networks and a variety of field trips showcasing the best of Landcare across the state.

Themes range from local issues to broader technical questions, and will include discussions that look to the future. Lynne Strong, the premier Bob Hawke Landcare Award winner, will host a discussion on youth 'ag-vocacy'.

Other topics will also cover Landcare as an international phenomenon. Landcare started in Australia and, through the work of Australian Landcare International, now addresses different issues in developing countries through the local model of protecting and reinvigorating the land to nurture future generations.

There will be in-depth analyses of the grassroots movement over more than 25 years in addressing the crisis in



Keynote speaker for the conference and former farm boy, celebrity chef Matt Moran, will reveal what customers want – and generate debate about bridging the gap between the city and the bush.

There has never been a more important time for growing awareness of where our food comes from.

land and water degradation, as well as participation by young Landcarers – with a conversation and documentary screening on growing the movement for the next generation.

Corporate responsibility will be highlighted through an analysis of the world-first Conservation Landbank in Victoria, which works to prevent degradation while raising horses and looks at how solar-water supplies can improve agricultural outcomes.

Keynote speaker for the conference, Matt Moran, will reveal what customers are telling him they want – from the farm to the fork.

He will also talk about how his early days, being raised on a dairy farm, led to a commitment to the land and a love



Catriona Rowntree with son Charlie, 3, doing revegetation on Little River with members of the Corio Landcare Group. Catriona's husband James Petit is the Geelong Landcare Network president.

## Calling on Landcare heroes

**T**O MARK 25 years since Landcare's national launch, acknowledge pioneers and look at the diversity – and beauty – of on-ground works and landscapes, Landcare Australia is seeking nominations for an honour roll and has published photos demonstrating a day in the life of Landcare taken on Sunday, July 20 – the 25-year birthday of the national initiative.

The Landcare Hero Honour Roll will run all year and is acknowledging – through photos and brief biographies – a sample of truly inspiring Landcarers. All volunteers who have dedicated time for 25 years or longer can share their story. Veterans already on the roll include:

- Tamworth Junior Landcare champion John Tucker, who started up a bursary fund for high schools – now known as Tamworth Regional Landcare Association – and has been involved in many roles in the group.
- Also from NSW, in the region of Roslyn, is Eric Hurn, who has

clocked up more than 40 years with Landcare and is the state's finalist for the strongly contested Individual Landcarer category in next month's National Landcare Awards.

● Landcare Tasmania vice-president Brian Baxter, who with his wife owns and manages a 693-hectare property that has been in the family since 1905. Brian was a founding member of the East Tamar Landcare Group, and through this group he has been involved in the protection of the environment throughout the Tamar Valley.

● Brian McWilliam from the NT, who has focused on the McMinns Lagoon Recreation Reserve 30km from Darwin, which is a significant habitat for a vast range of wildlife and an important stopover for a number of migratory birds. As Brian's health is failing, he is working on the history of the lagoon and a website ensuring people can follow in his footsteps.

Looking at Landcare today, groups across Australia recently took inspiring photos showing what Landcare means

to them, which will be published in a commemorative book.

Contributions include Illawarra Youth Landcare whale watching after working with the Royal National Park Cabins Community Landcare group; Willow Warriors kayaking while working on a black willow project on the Hawkesbury-Nepean; urban renewal by Tambo Bluff Landcare Coastcare, in Metung, East Gippsland, which doubles as a habitat corridor and walking track; and members of the Christmas Hills Landcare Group using a pole-mounted camera to inspect a nest box installed for brush-tailed phascogales.

The Day in the Life of Landcare photo crowd-sourcing and the Landcare Hero Honour Roll are funded by the federal government.

Photos from The Day in the Life of Landcare and the Landcare Hero Honour Roll can be viewed via [landcarelife.com/25years](http://landcarelife.com/25years).

Nominations for the honour roll will be taken all year via the website.

for food and local produce.

"Having grown up as a fourth-generation farm boy, I have an intimate understanding of the link between environmentally conscious land management and the production of top-quality produce," Mr Moran said.

"I look forward to being part of the celebration of 25 years of Landcare in Melbourne this September, telling the story about my journey from farm to foodie, and hopefully generating some debate about bridging the gap between the city and the bush – there has never been a more important time for growing awareness of where our food comes from."

Providing thought for the future, a panel will set the scene on the final morning of the three-day event.

The panel will be hosted by a

number of Landcare practitioners, including representation from the National Farmers Federation and the Australian Conservation Foundation – which were successful in their joint governmental submission for the formation of Landcare at a national level more than two decades ago.

The panel will identify key issues and look at how the reach and strength of the grassroots movement can be harnessed to make a real and lasting difference in a changing environment.

The National Landcare Conference, being held from September 17-19, is being delivered by Landcare Australia for the first time, through funding from the federal government.

● Registrations are now open through the website [www.nationallandcareconference.floktu.com](http://www.nationallandcareconference.floktu.com) and the early bird rate will end on August 25.

### FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

THREE finalists for the Bob Hawke Landcare Award have been announced in the lead-up to the National Landcare Awards being held on September 18. The awards also include finalists representing every state and territory, and the people's choice award, to be determined by online votes.

The biennial national awards – incorporating the second-ever Bob Hawke award with \$50,000 prizemoney – is fielding 69 winners from last year's state and territory Landcare awards in nine diverse categories.

These ranged from the Westpac Agribusiness Innovative Young Landcare Leader to the Qantas Landcare Innovative Community Group, Australian Government Innovation in

● To p 12 of special edition.



## 2014 National Landcare Conference

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY, GROWING OUR FUTURE

Register now to be part of the key Landcare knowledge sharing event of the year as we celebrate 25 years as a national movement.

September 17th - 19th,  
Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne

[www.nationallandcareconference.floktu.com](http://www.nationallandcareconference.floktu.com)

# 25 years of Landcare

Comment by BARNABY JOYCE

**T**HE Landcare movement brings together thousands of farmers and volunteers from across Australia – people who are passionate about making positive and practical changes that support profitable farms and long-term food security.

Over 25 years, what began as a shared concern for soil by farmers, industry, conservationists and the government has now become a movement embraced by more than 100,000 volunteers operating across every Australian landscape, from outback to coastline.

In just a quarter of a century, Landcare has had a major impact in local communities.

Whether managing feral pests and weeds, applying minimal tillage to improve groundcover or working to

more accurately apply fertilisers, Landcare's success begins with energetic people working together to find real solutions to local problems.

The results are shared widely. They help small community groups become sophisticated farming enterprises.

They help producers to adopt new land-management practices in response to changing markets and consumer demands. And they allow farmers ever-increasing access to domestic and international markets.

The federal government remains committed to supporting Landcare. As part of the budget, we announced more than \$4 million for Landcare Australia Limited over the next four years to continue with its important work.

We're also providing funds to support this year's National Landcare Conference and the National Landcare Awards. The theme of this year's conference – 'Celebrating our history,



Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce.

growing our future' – resonates with me personally. It's only by looking back that we can see the way forward.

We have a remarkable tradition of agricultural production that stretches

back to the challenges of Captain Arthur Phillip, who arrived in Australia in 1788 with seven horses, six cattle, 29 sheep, 12 pigs, and a few goats, fowls and ducks.

Our agricultural industries are something I hope all Australians are proud of.

Captain Phillip was woefully under-resourced for the challenge of feeding the new colony, and the waves of convicts and immigrants who would follow.

He had the wrong tools, seeds and seedlings, and little knowledge of the harsh Australian environment.

It amazes me how far Australian agriculture has come since then.

Last financial year, it is estimated our agricultural sector was worth \$53.5 billion and we exported \$41b in agricultural products. In many fields, we are considered world leaders. Our agricultural industries are something I hope all Australians are proud of.

There are still many challenges ahead. We are committed to working with the Landcare movement to ensure Australia continues to enjoy a vibrant, innovative and competitive agricultural sector.

I look forward to seeing Landcare groups continue to build and maintain a resilient on-farm natural resource base, and minimise the off-site impact of agricultural activities for many years to come.

## Building pathways in our anniversary year

By TESSA JAKSZEWICZ  
LAL chief executive

**D**URING this 25th anniversary year of Landcare's national launch, we have been reflecting on the all-important responsibilities of the grassroots movement, current challenges and how best to move forward to ensure the Landcare movement is supported in its critical work protecting, restoring and sustainably managing the productivity and unique value of Australia's natural environment.

To provide the 'glue' helping bring together the hundreds of thousands of volunteers and thousands of groups nationwide – and to help raise essential non-government funding to continue providing resources for on-ground works into the future – Landcare Australia Limited was formed by the government of the day in 1989, shortly after the Decade of Landcare was announced as a bipartisan initiative.

Landcare Australia will be celebrating its own quarter-century birthday in October – three months after Landcare was officially launched at a national level. In the lead-up to this, we have distributed grants to groups to help reach out to more Australians through events in Landcare Week next month, as well as funding to schools and youth groups to



Tessa Jakszewicz in the field.

help foster the next generation of Landcarers, drawing on funds raised through our Workplace Giving Program. We are also pleased to be managing, for the first time, next month's biennial National Landcare Conference, funded by the federal government.

We received almost 200 submissions to present at the conference, and we have been working with Landcare

and natural resource management representatives, as well as the conference committees, reviewing abstracts and drawing up a program that is diverse, informative and representative across a range of views about managing our land and water for environmental and agricultural purposes.

More recently, Landcare Australia learned it was successful in its bid in partnership with ManpowerGroup to be a service provider for the Green Army program, which will see the deployment of up to 15,000 young Australians working on projects nationwide over the next three years.

Given the government's substantial commitment of resources to this program, we felt it was important for the Landcare community to have a mechanism through Landcare Australia to participate in and benefit from the program, and to ensure the best environmental outcomes.

Based on inquiries we have been receiving, there is a lot of interest among Landcare and community groups in finding out how they can fit into the Green Army.

ManpowerGroup will recruit and manage the Green Army participants, while Landcare Australia will work with ManpowerGroup and selected project sponsors, providing support and helping ensure effective on-ground delivery. It will be the responsibility of

service providers to ensure the logistical and administrative requirements are met, while local project sponsors will have some level of obligation regarding input and agreement on work plans, and workplace health and safety plans – and Landcare Australia will be there to help guide groups through the process.

We understand the Department of the Environment may hold up to two assessment periods for new project sponsors each year, and we will communicate with the broader Landcare community as opportunities arise. Once applications are open, we will be encouraging Landcare groups to submit suitable proposals within the Green Army program. For the latest Landcare information as it comes to hand, please check out the Landcare Australia website or subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter, Landlink, via [landcareaustralia.com.au](http://landcareaustralia.com.au)

We look forward to using this 25th anniversary year as a stepping stone to build on and strengthen engagement across the Landcare community and beyond. We will redouble our efforts to attract new participants and to provide ongoing practical support for the movement, and work together as Australia's largest volunteer movement as custodians of our environment and its productivity – which nurtures and provides sustenance for us all.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

LANDCARE in Focus is proudly supported by the federal government Department of Agriculture 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 all submissions will be included. All submissions must adhere to the guidelines and deadlines below, and must include:

- One article of no more than 300-600 words saved as a Microsoft Word document or a PDF.
- No more than two or three 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 details.

The final issue for 2014 is: Landcare in Focus November 2014. Publication date: November 20. Submission deadline: October 17. Dates for 2015 will be published online and included in Landcare Australia's Landlink e-newsletter, which can be subscribed to via [landcareaustralia.com.au](http://landcareaustralia.com.au)



2014 National Landcare People's Choice Award



Vote for your local Landcare champion today!

Voting closes on September 17th

[www.landcareonline.com.au/2014nationalawards](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/2014nationalawards)

The 2014 National Landcare Awards are proudly supported by:



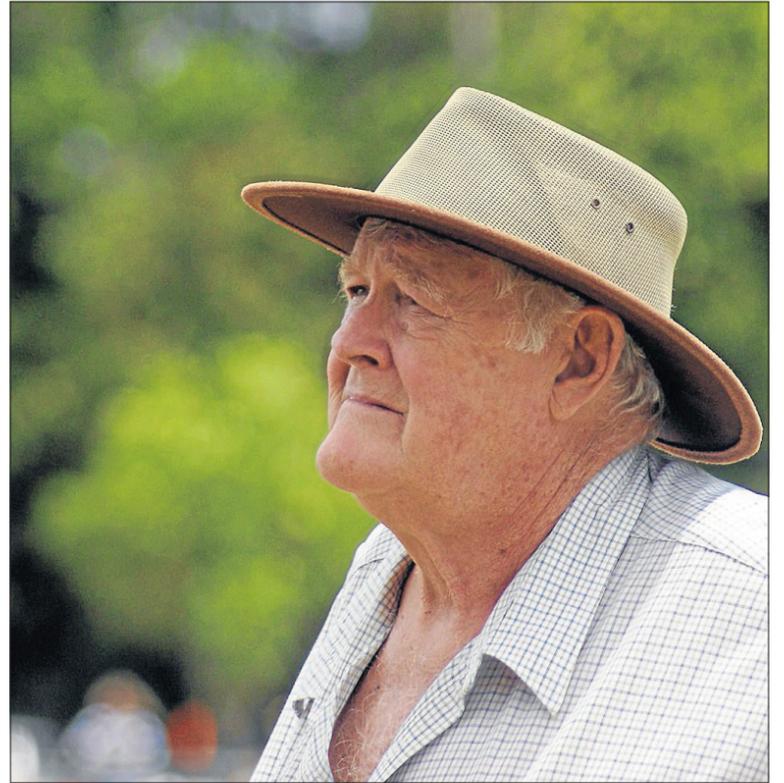


Australian Government

# Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award



Robert Myers' classroom is visited by hundreds of students each year.



Russell Fry says sustainable farms support sustainable communities.

## Peter Forster, VIC

With experience gained from working his own land, Peter Forster has been a passionate advocate for the Landcare cause for more than 20 years. He has been a catalyst for the formation of new groups and secretary of the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group for more than a decade.

Peter has spread the Landcare ethos throughout his catchment and has overseen many successful on-ground projects, including a number of saline discharge treatment demonstration sites, sustainable farming and biodiversity projects.

membership, including among the younger generation. She has played a leadership role in incorporating indigenous cultural heritage into on-ground work, which has been taken up by other Landcare groups in the area.

With Caroline at the helm, the Umbagog group has managed grasslands of botanical significance, worked on weed control in riparian areas and monitored waterway health and incorporated cultural heritage into works.

## Greg Warburton, WA

Greg has worked at the interface between Landcare and the wider community in the Avon catchment for more than 20 years. He was instrumental in setting up the Conserving the Avon River Environment Inc (CARE), representing all environmental community groups along the Avon and Dale rivers.

On the ground, he has worked on revegetation and waterway restoration using fencing, sediment removal, water quality monitoring, and control of erosion and environmental weeds.

He drove development of a river walk track in Toodyay to connect people to the natural environment and impart a conservation message.

## Chris Johns, TAS

A Landcarer, Coastcarer and nurturer of people, Chris has had an outsized impact on Landcare in southern Tasmania. He is president of the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania (SCAT), a network of 40 groups that opens up communication and reduces duplication in recognition that the 'people element' is all important to Landcare. He has taught land management and horticulture at the



Peter Forster with his scarred tree.

Tasmanian Polytechnic and Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, and is a trainer for Australian Demeter biodynamic growers. Among his on-ground projects is the rehabilitation of some 'unloved' land near Hobart's Tasman bridge, and its linking to other rehabilitated urban areas.

## Robert Myers, SA

Bob expanded his passion for his

encouraged Bob to form the Upper River Torrens Landcare Group (URLTG) 25 years ago. He has played a vigorous role in Landcare ever since.

## Russell Fry, QLD

The founding president of Malanda Landcare, Russell was the driving force behind the revegetation of the upper North Johnstone River, for 20km from its origin at Broomfield Swamp to the Malanda Falls Environmental Park.

He also succeeded where others had failed at creating the 15km Crater Lakes Corridor. Russell's Landcare hats have also included being president of the North Johnstone and Eacham Landcare Group, and a seat on the Minister's Community Reference Panel for the Wet Tropics Water Resource Plan (2010-13). He has pushed against the concept that Landcare is mostly about planting trees – it is, Russell says, about the sustainable use of natural resources to build sustainable farms to support sustainable communities.

## Sue McKinnon, NT

A dedicated environmentalist and Landcarer, Sue McKinnon established the Friends of Mitchell Creek (FoMC) in Darwin's satellite city of Palmerston to protect the unique ecology of the biodiversity corridor from the development of 4000 houses over three years.

The creek is now under challenge from urbanisation, but thanks to FoMC, the creek environment continues to provide habitat, connectivity and a place for community recreational activities. Around her efforts to save the creek, Sue has organised a range of Landcare activities that have highlighted the value of the movement within its community.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY LANDCARE



It's 25 years since Landcare was launched as a national movement, and time for some celebrations! Help inspire others to get involved by sharing your Landcare story, nominate your local hero for the Landcare Hero Honour Roll, or send us your before and after Landcare photos to show what a difference it can make.



## INSPIRE OTHERS TO GET INVOLVED TODAY!

[www.landcarelife.com/25years](http://www.landcarelife.com/25years)  
[25years@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:25years@landcareaustralia.com.au)

Image submitted by Illawarra Youth Landcare for A Day in the Life of Landcare



Hawkesbury Environmental Educators Network founder Zhan Patterson with *Gardening Australia* host Costa Georgiadis and students.



Kate Sputore started Western Australia's first Coastcare for Singles event.

### Zhan Patterson, NSW

A true local champion, Zhan is an environmental educator who has developed great Landcare programs for young people in the Hawkesbury area.

As co-ordinator of the Alive! program, she worked with 12 schools and youth groups to identify environmental issues and their solutions.

Zhan helped create the youth stream of the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority's Source to Sea program, a week-long adventure on the Hawkesbury River celebrating Landcare during Landcare Week 2012. These experiences enabled Zhan to set up the Hawkesbury Environmental Educators Network.

### Ammie Jackson, VIC

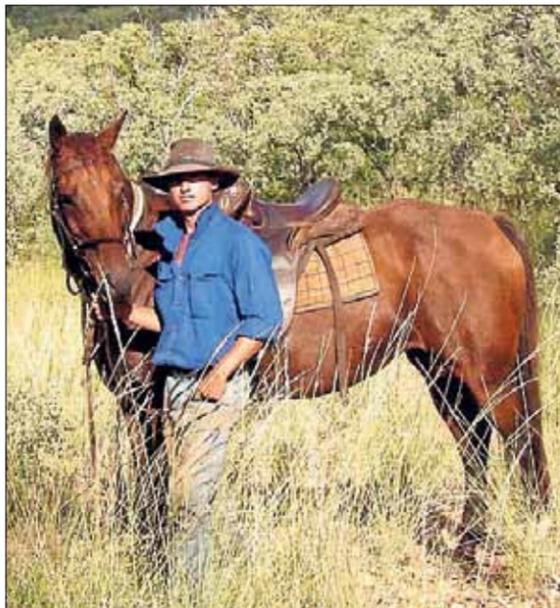
Ammie's leadership and expertise strike a balance between how environmental and agricultural issues are addressed in the Stony Rises.

She brings 10 years of experience in the natural resource management industry to the group, and has directed it to projects as diverse as a nesting boxes project, Clean Up Australia Day, information nights and community events, weed control and large-scale tree-planting events. Ammie is an adept community organiser and has facilitated engagement from a range of other stakeholders in the Corangamites.

She consistently attracts funding for the group and is a knowledgeable project manager, most recently forming the Stony Rises Blackberry Action Group.

### Kate Sputore, WA

Kate Sputore is adept at encouraging new generations to join the



Russell Cornall has been instrumental in forming the Victoria River District Regional Wild Dog Management Group.

Coastcare and Landcare movement, while inviting recognition for the work of current volunteers.

On the ground, she has managed restoration across about 10 hectares of coastal reserve, facilitated planting of 20,000 coastal natives and engaged more than 600 community volunteers in practical action.

As well, she works with a long list of groups, and co-ordinated the first Coastcare for Singles event in WA – so successfully there was a waiting list almost as long as the attendee list.

Consecutive events have been held in 2013 and 2014.

Kate also runs corporate volunteering days and major national events, runs field trips and organises seminars.

### Amanda Hosking-Young, TAS

As secretary of the Wynyard Landcare group over the past four years in Tasmania's beautiful and less populated north-west, Amanda has helped others develop the skills of Landcare.

She encourages and teaches others, while working to bring in the funding and external support that makes many projects possible.

Notable among Amanda's achievements is her management of a project to restore Little Penguin Habitat at Doctors Rocks, Wynyard. She also works with other committee members to develop a group website to further encourage and inform local residents on Wynyard Landcare's activities.



Amanda Hosking helps plant at Cooe Creek. — Picture: ANNA WIND.

### Russell Cornall, NT

Russell is a young Landcare leader working within the Northern Territory/Western Australian agribusiness sector as the rangelands manager of Heytesbury Cattle Company, and as chairman of the Victoria River District Conservation Association.

He has led the Heytesbury Neem Tree Control Program along the Wickham River, and conducted a number of herbicide and equipment trials to find the most cost-effective management methods for this and other weeds.

He has freely shared his experience, among other things collaborating with the NT Weed Management Branch and Department of Primary Industries to

deliver theoretical and practical units on fire, weed and pasture management.

### Ashley Volz, QLD

As chairman of his local Landcare group and an innovator on his own 1500ha property, beef producer Ashley Volz leads by example. He has implemented a range of biological farming techniques on the family property, and hosts field days to help others review the methods. With the South Myall Catchment Landcare Group, Ashley has spoken widely about land management, and has worked to bring outside help for projects such as weed control, riparian fencing and salinity management. The group also engaged a consultant conservation officer to inspect properties that were affected by the 2011 floods and provide plans for landscape restoration.

### Georgie Keynes, SA

A communicator and innovator, Georgie helps landholders to find new ways of implementing natural resource management. She works with landholders as a professional, in her current role as technical facilitator for the Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG), and previously as a land-management adviser with the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board.

She is also an active member of live-stock producer groups, North Rhine Sheep and Mt Pleasant Beef.

Her engagement is practical – for instance, she introduced and trialed an innovative labour-saving temporary electric fencing system, known as a 'Rappa' – and as a leader. She is a volunteer with the Barossa Young People in Agriculture group and organised its first conference in March 2014.



## Workplace Giving Partners...Thank you!

Landcare Australia's corporate supporters and their employees understand that together we can make a positive difference to our natural environment.

Landcare Australia would like to say thank you to our 2014 Workplace Giving Partners and their employees who are supporting a celebratory 25th Anniversary Junior Landcare Grants Program to encourage the next generation of Landcarers to get involved in a range of projects just for them!

To find out more about Landcare Australia's Workplace Giving Program visit [www.landcareonline.com.au/workplacegiving](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/workplacegiving)

### Clovelly Tasmania, TAS

Clovelly Tasmania Pty Ltd, a dairy near Bridport on the north-east coast, is innovating by combining best-practice biodiversity protection with productive, environmentally responsible intensive food production. The 3500ha property has protected 1400ha of remnant vegetation, and on a newly acquired property there is a program to remove exotic pines and replace them with mixed exotic vegetation.

Technology plays an important role: cows are individually monitored with pedometers, which provides early warning of illness, and irrigators have been fitted with variable rate systems to save water. Dairy effluent is returned to the pastures as fertiliser.

### Craig & Tanya Davis, VIC

Trips to Holland and New Zealand persuaded Heytesbury District Landcare Network members Craig and Tanya Davis to make significant changes to their dairy farm. They have developed a dairy effluent management system that diverts solid wastes to a composting system and liquid waste to a carefully managed system of irrigation. This has resulted in a 40 per cent saving in phosphorous and potassium fertiliser inputs, and a 90 per cent saving in nitrogen fertiliser.

Their work has enabled them, with four other families, to launch the Green Pastures sustainable milk brand into Coles supermarkets across four states.

### FigTrees Organic Farms, NSW

Glenn Morris and Henry Sheehan from FigTrees Organic Farms in NSW have used their understanding of natural processes to transform a degraded farm near Grafton into a working model of eco-agriculture. After realising that soil health plays a role in climate change, health (through nutrition), water security and biodiversity protection, they set about improving the cycling of organic matter back into the soil to improve humus build-up. They have spoken widely about the changes they have seen, especially to the way water is stored in the landscape and the huge boost to farm productivity.

### Lakefield Station, NT

Over 15 years, Garry and Michelle Riggs have shaped 596 square kilometre Lakefield Station into a productive and resilient beef cattle property able to handle the fluctuations of climate and markets. They have erected 400km of fencing to ensure cattle are never more than 3km from water, and use rotational grazing to ensure a good buffer of pasture is always ahead of the mob. They have fenced off 1200ha for conservation, including 340ha Lake Duggan, the largest lake on the Sturt Plateau.

Wetlands and caves have also been protected, and they manage their 250km of roads for minimal erosion.



ACT's Majura Valley Free Range Eggs with Mount Ainslie in the distance.



ABOVE Wildfire management at Lakefield Station.

LEFT: Craig (Reggie) Davis in his field at the family dairy farm at Tesbury.



### Majura Valley Free Range Eggs, ACT

When it began in 1999, Majura Valley Free Range Eggs – a founding member of Majura Landcare Group – set aside about 10 per cent of the farm to native tree plantings to create corridors and 'bring back the birds'.

Free-range egg production was chosen as an enterprise because the farm isn't big enough to sustain a traditional grazing operation. Inspired by US farmer Joel Salatin, the 2000

hens at Majura Valley Free Range Eggs range from eight moveable houses, fertilising the land they feed from. In rotation with sheep, the system has given a tenfold increase in productivity compared to previous uses of the land.

### Mallee Sustainable Farming, SA

Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF) delivers research and extension services for low rainfall dryland farmers in the mallee cropping regions of South

Australia, NSW and Victoria. The group works more than 7 million hectares.

MSF manages 36 sustainable agriculture projects throughout the tri-state Mallee region, 22 of them in South Australia.

All projects combine sustainability and productivity elements.

They include improved stubble management to reduce wind erosion and increase soil organic matter, engaging women in sustainable agriculture and Landcare, and farmer-initiated on-farm trials

addressing topical issues for specific areas.

### Mike Harrison, QLD

Mike Harrison is an advocate for the life of the soil.

He has used his knowledge of composts and compost teas, and their effects on soil micro-organisms, to help lower farm production costs and for all-round farm sustainability.

He has demonstrated that spreading compost can cut fertiliser use by at least 50 per cent, along with reductions in fungicide use of up to 80 per cent.

As the owner of Wide Bay Compost, Mike provides compost to orchardists, donates compost to research projects and provides training to horticulturists.

### North East Farming Futures, WA

With 803 farmers from four grower groups and a coverage of 1.4 million hectares, North East Farming Futures has extensive influence across WA's northern wheat belt.

The group develops business cases for new farming options, and supports education programs to increase farmers' capacity for diversification and value-adding.

It also supports the development of co-operative ventures that need the critical mass of many participants.

Projects run by the group have included a \$6 million, five-year Rural Financial Counselling Service, described as "best practice" by PwC; Masters of Climate workshops; and the development of energy and water-use efficiency programs, and women's leadership networks.



# greener pastures

Proudly supported by Westpac





Norman Wettenhall Foundation executive director Beth Mellick with Jean McClymont from Salisbury West Landcare on a bird-monitoring workshop.



Planting as part of GWLAP's Community Revegetation Program in South Australia.

## Arid Lands Environment Centre, NT

The vision behind the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) – 'Healthy futures for arid lands and people' – encourages the group to act as a catalyst and organiser of on-ground environmental action. ALEC built the Biodiversity Matters program to link volunteers with land managers and researchers working on conservation issues. For instance, the program supported 12 volunteers in assisting government researchers document the rare *Acacia peuce* population at Old Andado Station on the edge of the Simpson Desert. ALEC hopes the model can be rolled out nationwide.

## Norman Wettenhall Foundation, VIC

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is a philanthropic trust supporting projects that enhance the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment. The foundation directs funds in a way that brings people together in creating community-owned biodiversity blueprints that lead to landscape-level change. It values networking between the groups it supports: one of the major programs invests in seven significant landscape-scale projects across Victoria and annually brings them together for networking and mutual support.

Seed funding from the foundation also allows Landcare groups to approach other major funding sources.

## High Country Biodiversity Project, NSW

The High Country Biodiversity Project (HiCUB) is a partnership between Southern New England Landcare and four local government



Kabi Kabi man Kerry Jones and son Bowdean of the Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation at the Maroochy canelands FarmFLOW mangrove project.

areas – Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha. HiCUB has forged stronger relationships between councils, Landcare and other community groups that have enabled the four councils to work with Landcare and community groups on other projects, such as roadside vegetation management, protection, and urban bush land and biodiversity planning. Other initiatives include Black Gully Music Festival, which showcases the area's rehabilitation to the wider community.

## SunCoast FarmFLOW Project, QLD

The goal of the SunCoast FarmFLOW Project, administered by non-profit community group Maroochy Landcare, is to reduce the impact of grazing and cane farming on the northern Moreton Bay coastal hotspot. Through the project, Maroochy Landcare has linked Landcare initiatives

to a diverse range of groups, programs and co-investors through formal and informal partnerships. The list of achievements from this approach is long: at least 84ha of environmental weed control for regeneration; 75km of riparian restoration via stock exclusion; 162ha of sediment control measures for landslip rehabilitation; 10.5ha of wetland restoration; and 216 producers engaged through workshops, farm visits and incentives.

## Shire of Mundaring, WA

The Shire of Mundaring's 2012 Environmental Management Plan set out a community-based approach to protecting natural assets for future generations. It has developed a Friends Group Strategy that recognises local environmental groups as essential partners by supporting them with a bush care co-ordinator, Landcare officer and

trainee. The Friends groups have volunteered more than 60,000 hours and planted more than 152,000 plants in the past 10 years. The shire's support has seen development of community and school-education programs, revegetated public reserves, improved wildlife habitat, facilitated weed-control programs, and resulted in 60,000 hours of environmental volunteering.

## Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association, SA

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) has developed partnerships with more than 50 local groups and supports them wherever possible. GWLAP also works to involve the wider community, including groups which are not traditionally environmentally focused, in Landcare and environmental activities. For instance, GWLAP has

been contracted to deliver the Community Revegetation Project for the Murray Futures program. From 2010-13, GWLAP involved volunteers from more than 54 community groups (more than 3000 volunteers a year) to plant 951,770 seedlings on 97 sites.

## Source Water Protection Program, ACTEW, ACT

The Source Water Protection Program, part of ACTEW Water, has from the beginning engaged with Landcare groups in recognition that reaching diverse parts of the community is key to maintaining water quality.

The program is charged with protecting water quality in the Cotter and upper Murrumbidgee river catchments, and Googong Dam.

It approaches this task through community-based capacity-building roles, peer-to-peer education, workshops and training, field days, knowledge-sharing forums and seminars, site visits, media coverage, and the distribution of information through networks and industry groups.

## Tasman Council, TAS

Tasman Council's ongoing strategy of working with Landcare achieves the maximum result from a minimum of resources. The council is focused on developing Tasman municipality's role as a niche agricultural producer.

Through a permanent part-time staff position, it works with stakeholders such as NRM South and the Tasman Landcare Group to help grow the number and diversity of agriculture and aquaculture enterprises in a sustainable manner. The council also offers support for Landcare groups seeking funding opportunities, and is also developing partnerships across municipal boundaries.



## LANDCARE AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES 3,000 TELSTRA CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS!

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Telstra employees understand that together with partners such as Landcare Australia, we can make a difference. In addition to participating in initiatives such as Landcare Australia's Corporate Environmental Volunteering Program, many are actively engaged in a Workplace Giving Program under which their donations to Landcare Australia are matched dollar for dollar by Telstra.

Volunteering - Sustainability in action at Telstra.

## Friends of Fogg Dam, NT

Fogg Dam, a relic of early attempts to produce rice on the Adelaide River floodplain, is internationally recognised for its birdlife, but the dam and its surrounds are inundated with weeds.

Friends of Fogg Dam plays a significant role helping repair and prevent degraded land environments at Fogg Dam – the only Top End wetland accessible to vehicles year-round – which is only an hour's drive from Darwin on the way to Kakadu.

The group has successfully tackled incursions of weeds such as olive hymenachne, snakeweed and sida, by working with government and other agencies, holding regular working bees, and being involved in outreach and education about the dam, which attracts 80,000 visitors annually.

## Great Tracks Clean-up Crew, SA

In eight years, the Great Tracks Clean-up Crew has travelled more than 81,000km (just over twice around the world) and removed 370 tonnes of rubbish from South Australia's outback tracks.

Moving dozens of people and vehicles over unserviced regions of the outback requires careful planning a year in advance.

By taking rubbish from outback tracks, the group is helping maintain and preserve iconic landscapes.

The removal of dumped chemicals and other rotting matter also protects the region's soils from contamination.

Last year nine new members from Victoria and Queensland joined the group. Those new interstate members have continued their association, expanding the work of the Great Tracks Clean-up Crew from South Australia to branch groups in other states in coming years.

## Roleybushcare, WA

*Phytophthora dieback* (PD), which is recognised by governments as a major threat to the biodiversity of the country, is widespread in Roleystone in West Australia's south-west – where it kills trees and wildflowers in bushland reserves and residents' properties.

Concerned about the devastating effects of PD in the jarrah forest around Roleystone, Roleybushcare developed a hydraulic tree injector and applied a protective inoculation to 18,000 trees in key bushland reserves.

Roleybushcare also educates residents to conserve and restore bushland.

As a result of the group's work with locals and the City of Armadale, every bushland reserve in the area now has a custodian.

## Hughes Garran Woodland Group, ACT

The Hughes Garran Woodland Group has created a woodland plan



A weekend clean-up of the Gawler Ranges region nets more than 6 tonnes including TVs, caravan gear and a lounge.



Sunset over recently cleared water – Fogg Dam, May 2014.

that acts as a model of community-based land-management planning by representing the varying interests of the broader community.

The plan embraces recreational activities along with conservation objectives to reinvigorate the woodlands, as well as the birdlife reliant on it.

The group also leads important on-ground activities, including managing weeds, building birdnesting boxes, photographic monitoring of key ecological points throughout the woodland and maintaining walking tracks. The group is working not only to enhance woodland habitats for local birds, but also hopes its efforts will contribute to a broader plan to restore yellow box-red gum woodlands.

## Little River Landcare Group, NSW

Headed by celebrated rural leader

Pip Job, the Little River Landcare Group steps outside the normal Landcare role by delivering social programs. Projects have included the Farmers Teaching Farmers program – which saw 70 farming families participate over four years – and a Succession Planning and Intergenerational Transfer program.

It has begun to look at how it can support local farmers undergoing financial hardship.

The group teaches personal awareness and development in all its capacity-building programs.

It has undertaken a wide variety of projects in its 15-year history and received some \$5.2 million – value-adding to execute projects that would otherwise have cost \$9.8m.

Among notable programs, Little River Landcare has worked with the Meat & Livestock Australia environmental team to provide relevant case studies and information – which was

recognised by the MLA team when the popular Target 100 project was awarded the Gold Banksia Award in 2013.

## Tamar NRM, TAS

Tamar NRM uses a combination of direct on-ground action and community capacity building to rehabilitate degraded environments, prevent long-term degradation and facilitate long-term management.

The organisation identifies community concerns and activates community-based solutions through a ground-up community-focused method. More than 300 community members were actively engaged in its strategic review.

Among other things, Tamar NRM has successfully tackled serrated tussock and major revegetation projects. In addition to its focus on establishing community-based eradi-

cation plans for declared agricultural weeds, Tamar NRM has also embraced mobile technology to conduct feral species management programs, while minimising native species by-catch, particularly Tasmanian devils. The group also engages in broader knowledge sharing through sister Landcare partnerships with Woody Yaloak Catchment Group, as well as with Grayson Landcare Group in Virginia.

## North Burnett Landcare Group, QLD

In the aftermath of the flood caused by ex-tropical cyclone Oswald, North Burnett Landcare Group formed a partnership with Landcare's Burnett Mary Regional Group to engage Conservation Volunteers Australia and job seekers in on-farm flood-recovery works to help farmers get back on their feet.

The group has also directed the management of two significant wetlands near Monto and engaged local schools in Landcare activities.

## Pentland Hills Landcare Group, VIC

Pentland Hills Landcare Group (PHLG) is leading a big project to link Lerderderg and Werribee Gorge State Parks in the Great Dividing Range.

The group is working with landholders, the local catchment management authority, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, and Melbourne Water to progress the project.

In early 2014, 22km of the biolink had been completed, with the last 11km due to be completed by 2015.

PHLG also designed the Myrningland Landholder Expo, a one-stop forum that provided land-management advice to more than 400 landholders.



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Louise Hufton, NSW.



Angela Calliess, ACT, inspecting tubestock. — Picture: Andrew Campbell.

## Mandy Coulson, VIC

Mandy's ability to knit together the many threads of agriculture, community and Landcare into a highly effective organisation has earned her respect for her work at the Surf Coast and Inland Plains Network (SCIPN). She has made a substantial contribution to SCIPN's ability to support and deliver natural resource management programs across the network area. Under Mandy's guidance, the network has reinvigorated and transformed into an active and respected organisation with high levels of engagement. She has introduced a range of programs that link farm productivity with natural resource management, ensuring the effort expended to deliver a program has a substantial multiplier effect.

## Louise Hufton, NSW

Louise Hufton aims to inspire, supporting members of the Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group (HMLG) in tackling the region's natural resource issues while improving agricultural productivity.

As HMLG's co-ordinator, Louise encourages landholders to make a difference in their lifetime. She mentors Riverina Local Land Services staff and Landcare support officers, helping them understand and support their rural communities. Louise is a strong advocate for building relationships between landholders and relevant organisations to boost uptake and awareness of natural resource management and its role in productivity.

## Glenys Bowtell, QLD

Glenys is a consummate project manager. She balances roles as secretary of North East Downs Landcare Group, treasurer of Condamine Catchment Management Association, and for 14 years the project co-ordinator of South Myall Catchment Landcare Group. She is adept at



Linda and Joe Armstrong, Urala.

leveraging resources from Commonwealth, state and regional sources, and harnessing volunteer effort with support from other stakeholder groups. Her efforts have been directed across the natural resource spectrum, exemplified by her work with crews from the Darling Downs Correctional Centre that from 1999-2012 treated 2800 hectares for lantana, 4000ha for tree pear and 2400ha for African boxthorn.

## Linda Anderson, WA

Linda Anderson has dedicated nine years to transforming and extending the reach of best practice weed management in the Pilbara.

As project manager for the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee, Linda has shaped the community group, its projects and reputation into a highly regarded authority on weed

management. Her strength lies in bringing land managers and partners together to form a united force, to share information and resources, and undertake weed-management programs on landscape scales. She has achieved a 90 per cent level of active participation by pastoralists, thanks to her ability to obtain external investment. A GIS [geographic information system] she developed for monitoring weed control has had 100 per cent adoption by pastoralists managing weeds.

## Jayne Shapter, TAS

Part of a small group that founded the West Tamar Landcare Group Inc in 1992, Jayne has since become the cement that holds the group together – she is the secretary, treasurer and project co-ordinator. Jayne does whatever is required to do the job.

During an important stream bank

rehabilitation, she acted as site manager, contractor co-ordinator and supervisor of project staff, tracked expenditure, and ran the project in close partnership with West Tamar Council and state government. As convenor and co-ordinator of Ragwort Raids, she has co-ordinated 100 volunteer 'weed pullers' each year for 11 years, and gets permits from state agencies and council for roadside work in the 180,000ha project footprint.

## Peter Clifton, NT

A former Northern Territory Landcare facilitator, Peter has a deep knowledge of the Landcare landscape – from weeds to key Territory stakeholders. He has excelled at solving challenges by bringing together multiple parties, such as the Corridors of Green project, which was funded after it brought together

Conservation Volunteers Australia and seven urban Landcare groups. To raise awareness of exotic rat's tail grass, Peter brought together pastoralists, government officers and researchers.

The group built a web page, and developed a brochure, identification guide and control recommendations, all of which greatly enhanced community awareness of the weed.

## Beryl Belford, SA

Beryl's passion for the environment and Landcare has been expressed at state, regional and paddock levels. She supported Landcare groups and their activities as member and secretary of the Southern Hills Soil Conservation Board for more than 10 years.

The board, with its central and northern counterparts, was instrumental in developing the Land Management Program for small landholders across the ranges.

Beryl played a large role in researching income alternatives for small landholders in the peri-urban areas around Mt Barker, and ensures the community is aware of any funding or other opportunities to improve natural resource management.

## Angela Calliess, ACT

Since 1995, Angela Calliess has earned respect for her roles in the ACT Parks system, and on rural land repair for the past eight years with Greening Australia. Her measurable outcomes cover 1000ha of land (including peri-urban) and 100km of riparian zones, and she has worked with more than 200 landholders. She is innovative in her approach to land repair, taking on whole-of-paddock rehabilitation, holistic management and alternative farming. Her work spans community engagement and volunteer management, to delivery of riparian restoration incentives and development of offset areas for partner business operations, to ecological monitoring programs.

## Landcare Week 2014 Get involved!

1st – 7th September

Check out our calendar to find one of the 25 events funded through the Landcare Australia Grow Grants, a Bushcare's Major Day Out event, a Landcare group working bee, a field trip – or even submit your own.

[www.landcarelife.com/events](http://www.landcarelife.com/events)





Crocodile Islands ranger removes a ghost net. – Picture: JOHN SKUJA.



Mackay and District Turtlewatch Association members protect endangered turtles.

### WILDCARE Deslacs, TAS

Since 2009, WILDCARE Deslacs has worked with the community around the small coastal village of Clifton Beach to develop clear land-management priorities. Two coastal resource management plans have emerged from this activity.

The 2011 Clifton Beach Coastal Reserve Activity Plan has included a focus on the sustainable use of this popular surfing beach through revegetation, fencing and track work to improve beach access.

The 2012 Cape Deslacs Spanish Heath Management Plan has helped protect habitat for species such as the short-tailed shearwater, and also protected threatened native vegetation communities through the creation of buffer zones. This work has also been supported by the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania (SCAT – see president Chris Johns in Individual Landcarer category) and the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. WILDCARE Deslacs data monitoring has been important in this project and in the University of Tasmania Tasmanian Shoreline Monitoring and Archiving Project, measuring the effects of sea-level rise on vulnerable coastlines.

### Tangaroa Blue Foundation, WA

The Australian Marine Debris Initiative was created by Tangaroa Blue Foundation (TBF) in 2004. Since then, more than 26,000 public volunteer opportunities have been filled, and more than 2.4 million items of marine debris have been removed from the Australian coastline – including 907,000 items from West Australian sites. The program engages communities to adopt a section of beach for monthly monitoring of marine debris.

This provides a valuable data set detailing marine debris trends and



Data collection by Tangaroa Blue Foundation tracks the source of debris and helps prevent it ending up in the ocean.

ensures mitigation work can be measured. The program also engages 57 indigenous organisations and 154 schools – the interactive TBF Interactive Marine Debris Education Kit is aligned to the national curriculum.

### Crocodile Islands Rangers, NT

The Crocodile Islands Rangers manage the land and sea territory of the Crocodile Islands, off the coast of the Northern Territory's Arnhem Land.

The indigenous rangers pick up discarded fishing nets/ghost nets, which would otherwise become environmental hazards, drifting through the ocean continuing to fish or washing up on land.

Over the past two years, the rangers have initiated projects that have increased community awareness and engagement with issues such as marine debris and ghost nets, and beach and coastline management.

A federal government project resulted in regular community beach clean-ups over a year, supplemented by education sessions and the creation of

posters and a short movie about the impacts of debris.

Another Territory NRM project involved the rangers recording and removing ghost nets and marine debris on Murrungga, Rapuma and Gurriba Islands. The collaboration of the Milingimbi community has been vital to the success of the projects.

### Grassy Head Nursery Reserve Trust, NSW

The Grassy Head Nursery Reserve Trust manages a nursery facility on Crown land; it is a NSW government-appointed body. The trust has formed partnerships with other groups to restore and enhance the vegetation and biodiversity around Grassy Head Beach on the mid-north coast of NSW.

Volunteers have already planted more than 10,000 seedlings over the past three years.

The group has also developed a vegetation management plan, and actively works at repairing degradation caused by environmental impacts such as bitou invasion on the dunes, accidental fires, vines, woody and grass weed invasion and erosion. Funding is



supplemented by the sale of plants.

The trust also works closely with the recently re-established Grassy Head Dune Care to restore Grassy Head's significant coastal environments.

### Mackay & District Turtle Watch Association, QLD

Since 1992, the Mackay and District Turtle Watch Association (MDTWA) has worked to protect the globally endangered marine turtles and their habitat. Its extensive accomplishments include an ongoing program of turtle monitoring, coastal habitat management, and community education and awareness activities, undertaken entirely by a network of 60 volunteers. Turtle signage has been developed and installed at 30 locations across the Mackay Whitsunday region, and MDTWA has run an education campaign for schools across the region since 1998.

The group also makes a significant contribution to regional coastal management by supplying its data to the Queensland Turtle Research program and the region's coastal managers.

### Friends of the Bluff, VIC

Coastal volunteer group Friends of the Bluff has long innovated with technology to increase community and

environmental awareness of the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary and surrounding Bluff area. Through a Coastcare Victoria grant, the group recently developed a marine conservation app for smartphones and tablets on the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary. The app contains a field guide to flora and fauna, relevant visitor information, a guided Rockpool Ramble, classroom activities, historical and cultural information, and positive conservation messages. It is a free resource to benefit the community and environment.

### Friends of Hooded Plovers, SA

Friends of Hooded Plovers Fleurieu Peninsula – also known as Hoodie Helpers – plays an important role in maintaining the health of this vulnerable bird population. Since 2009, about 40 volunteers have dedicated 2420 hours to monitoring and managing nesting birds and raising awareness in the community, as part of a program run by Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges, and BirdLife Australia.

The volunteers monitor breeding hooded plover pairs, nests and eggs, and fledgling chicks, and contribute information to a national database managed by BirdLife Australia. This 'citizen science' is aimed at helping change how the community perceives beaches and affects their behaviour in these sensitive environments.

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For every Invertek pool pump drive sold, Invertek will donate \$99 to Landcare Australia, to launch the Invertek Landcare & Coastcare Grants program during the summer of 2014/15.

For more information visit [www.landcareonline.com.au/corporate-partners/invertekdrives/](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/corporate-partners/invertekdrives/)





The Mangarrayi traditional owners worked on the traditional ecological knowledge collection (TEK) – part of the Mangarrayi Ranger Project. This main map shows sacred sites and storylines on Mangarrayi Country.

## Ken Stewart, VIC

Ken Stewart's ability to find practical, negotiated solutions to difficult and sensitive issues has made him a leading indigenous authority on cultural heritage issues in north-west Victoria. He began working with cultural heritage in the 1990s, as supervisor of a cultural heritage program involving a group of young unemployed indigenous trainees. He has since advised on key environmental and infrastructure projects, including multimillion-dollar programs such as the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, Robinvale Bridge and the Living Murray program. He has been a key figure in the repatriation of Aboriginal remains from museums and worked on a field guide about managing pest animals in culturally sensitive areas.

## Murries on Barwon, NSW

The Murries on Barwon project involves seven Aboriginal community members from Mungindi in north-west NSW who, with mentoring and vocational training, are implementing best-practice natural resource management on land owned by the Mungindi Local Aboriginal Land Council. Participants have learnt about eradicating invasive weeds, controlling pest animals, revegetating native habitat and protecting stream banks from erosion. Their efforts have brought significant improvements to the land, including better ecological connections

between the Barwon and Boomi rivers, and protecting cultural heritage sites from pests such as African boxthorn – using traditional land-management practices such as mosaic burning.

## Roper River Landcare Group and Mangarrayi Land Management Rangers, NT

On Mangarrayi Lands, a project involving three rangers and a supervisor is integrating traditional land management into contemporary natural resource management to protect and conserve biodiversity in the area. The partnership between Roper River Landcare and the Mangarrayi Land Management Rangers has had a significant impact on natural resource issues in the Roper River catchment, but also on the lives of the Mangarrayi people by providing training and employment, and contributing to the health and well-being of the rangers – who have become community role models – their families and the elders.

According to a 2006 survey, the Jilkminggan community of Mangarrayi Lands is the most disadvantaged in Australia. The effect of the Landcare partnership has been widespread – what started as a project with four led to the whole community getting involved.

It's given the Mangarrayi people a sense of pride to see the maps and book that have come from documenting their

traditional knowledge (picture above).

## Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, QLD

In 2012, Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporate (QYAC) undertook the restoration of Myora Springs (also known as Capembah Creek) on North Stradbroke Island. Near one of the most urbanised regions in Australia, the Myora Springs site was badly affected by erosion, loss of vegetation and mangrove dieback. The issues threatened to cause ecosystem collapse of the largest remaining patch of endangered coastal rainforest in south-east Queensland. The site is also culturally significant for the Quandamooka people. Elders were given the opportunity to engage and make decisions on the country. The community worked together to protect a sacred place, and its people are engaged in ongoing work to prevent the degradation to this and other sites.

## Sue Haseldine, SA

A Kokatha woman, Sue Haseldine has spent more than 20 years working with family and other volunteers to recover and maintain important cultural sites in her area – particularly soaks and rock holes – which are important

sources of water. By keeping the surface waters clean, controlling and monitoring weeds and feral animals, and monitoring biodiversity, Sue and the West Mallee Protection Group have preserved the waters for native animals and maintained their cultural integrity.

Other volunteers have become involved – Israeli soldiers and Polish engineers, archaeologists, conservationists and congressmen.

This guardianship has inspired a succession plan to strengthen the condition of the country and people who use it.

## Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre for Gowan Brae, TAS

The 2012 purchase by the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania of 6750ha Gowan Brae has opened up the possibility of new community connections with the land.

That connection is a primary goal of the management plan being developed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), which is managing the largely undisturbed property. Work has begun to clear hard rubbish, map and control weeds, fix fences, and put up gates to manage wandering stock and unauthorised access. Aboriginal Elder Phil Beeton, with input from TAC staff and a group of Aboriginal community

members, has started surveying Gowan Brae and understanding how past generations managed the land and used the landscape.

## Yurung Dhaura Aboriginal Land Management Team, ACT

The Yurung Dhaura ('strong earth' in the Ngunawal language) program was conducted over two years to train new generations of indigenous people in environmental regeneration and traditional land management.

Seven local Aboriginal people worked in the Yurung Dhaura positions and received formal training in Aboriginal NRM, cultural leadership, interpretation of cultural heritage, and conservation and land management. The Yurung Dhaura Aboriginal Land Management team developed into a highly skilled bush-regeneration team that was respected by the Aboriginal community, peers and colleagues.

The project was highly successful in helping the trainees and local Aboriginal community with environmental and social outcomes.

Trainees involved in the program have also succeeded in utilising their skills in similar work with Greening Australia Capital Region, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Legal Aid ACT, with Medicare Local and with developing a family-based Aboriginal Land Management business.



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Giving Shape to Ideas



## Gordonvale State School, QLD

Gordonvale State School's 'Excelsior: A Whole Community Approach to Sustainability' is used as an example for other schools to follow, and has been described in the Queensland Parliament as 'a hub of sustainability'. Students at the far north Queensland primary school have engaged in a number of important projects and have won numerous awards from organisations including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Projects conducted under Excelsior have included the restoration of O'Leary's Creek, which required the planting of more than 600 trees.

In its Permaculture Partnerships Project, students designed and built a permaculture garden as a tool to learn about gardening and produce food for the school tuckshop. Other activities included presenting at Earth Smart Science Workshops at a state level.



Landsdowne Crescent Primary School's Land to Sea team focused on Hobart's Knocklofty Reserve.

## Lansdowne Crescent Primary School, TAS

A bilingual interpretive trail of Hobart's Knocklofty Reserve that allows visitors to access information by using their iPhones to scan quick response (QR) codes has been developed by Lansdowne Crescent Primary School – not just to help visitors to the reserve but also to aid communication with Landsdowne's sister school in Indonesia. The school's Land to Sea leadership team developed the concept, which directs QR code queries back to the Land to Sea website that it also developed.

Backed by a team of experts, the project has given the local community a better understanding of Knocklofty's biodiversity value and opened up new ways of communicating with Kaliasin 1SDN, Landsdowne's sister school.

which monitors the school grounds and awards a prize at assemblies for the best kept area. Girraween Primary School has received the honour of being asked to create and contribute resources on food and fibre for the Australian curriculum in partnership with the National Primary Industry Education Foundation.

## Waikerie Primary School, SA

The Waikerie Primary Youth Environment Team (YET) considers water, biodiversity, energy and waste in its sustainability projects. The group provides information to the community about enhancing habitats and reducing the decline of species, in particular the regent parrot. The parrot is a vulnerable species, but the YETies' support has helped improve their status. YET works with community partners – in particular RWLandcare – on a range of other hands-on sustainability and community projects, across all age groups, making it a key presence in the region's sustainability movement.

## Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers, WA

Esperance Senior High School's Bush Rangers are involved in projects in partnership with the local community, natural resource management organisations and local businesses. The Rangers' tree-planting at the Lake Warden Ramsar wetlands contributes to the integrity of an important site for migrating waterbirds, while their rehabilitation and clean-up work improves the amenity and sustainability of Esperance's man-made environment. The wetlands – located

adjacent to Esperance on the State's south coast – is a system of saline lakes and marsh areas behind beachfront dunes, which provides habitat including for a significant proportion of the rare hooded plover population, which breeds regularly at Station Lake and Lake Warden.

The Bush Rangers cadets program is targeted at students in years 9 and 10, offering personal development training, and a hands-on understanding of conservation.

## Nagle College, VIC

The Nagle College Landcare Group's Eco Warrior Program incorporates Landcare principles and activities into the school curriculum. Students have engaged in a number of

successful initiatives such as the Mitchell River Eco Warriors, a year 9 elective subject that studies local ecological issues, and the Rainforest Project, developed to restore warm, temperate and gallery rainforest on the neglected 40-hectare site where the college adjoins the Mitchell River. They also propagate native seedlings in a student-constructed fernery and distribute them to local Landcare groups and schools. The group has been promoting the Landcare message and raising awareness of environmental issues within the school and community since 2000.

## Frog Dreaming, NSW

The two-day Frog Dreaming Conference is a youth learning

program held near Uralla, NSW, which uses ancient concepts of tribal duty to the land and totems to instil a conservation ethic. Students explore myriad environmental themes using music, song and drama. Tribal groups are formed and students explore tribal totems with natural resource management leaders and high school mentors.

The 'kids teaching kids' methodology is used to help highlight the importance of interconnectedness, local biodiversity and sustainable land management.

Lasting connections are built: student mentors are drawn from past participants.

The format creates new perspectives on the importance of understanding natural resources and land management issues.

## Giving to the Environment Project, ACT

More than 100 students from Lanyon High School, Bonython Primary School and Gordon Primary School embarked on a Giving to the Environment Project with in-class lessons complemented by on-ground activities.

Students from preschool to year 10 developed their understanding and practical skills on environmental issues through learning about water treatment and conservation, horticulture, sustainable living and gardening.

The project also enhanced students' understanding of 'environmental giving'.

The project was developed through community and academic partnerships, and teachers had the opportunity to present their research and achievements at the Australian Literacy Educators National Conference in July 2012.

## Girraween Primary School, NT

Students at Girraween Primary School learn many of their life lessons through agriculture – the school's mini-farm features chickens, a buffalo, goat, cow and a 400m<sup>2</sup> vegetable garden. The school's sustainability programs involve students from pre-school to year 6. The school has chosen other ways of 'learning through doing' such as building a butterfly farm and forming the Rubbish Warriors' group,

**Girraween Primary School has received the honour of being asked to create ... resources on food and fibre for the Australian Curriculum.**



BELOW: Girraween Primary School's no-dig garden.



## Landcare in Victoria

The Victorian Landcare Gateway is an interactive and informative website where you can find all the news from Victoria's Landcare groups and networks, including Landcare activities and events, project information and contacts. The Victorian Landcare Gateway is also full of resources, case studies, grant information and toolkits for community groups. **To find out more visit [www.landcarevic.net.au](http://www.landcarevic.net.au)**

The current issue (edition 61) of the Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine is a feature on involving young people in Landcare. To read or download the current or past issues of the magazine go to <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/magazine/vic>

NEWS ROUND-UP

# Biosecurity partnerships thrive in nation's north

LANDCARE is a community-based approach that has played a major role in raising awareness about biosecurity threats that will impact on Australia's agricultural production and unique environment. The Landcare ethos recognises everyone has a role in looking after "our patch". This is particularly important in northern Australia.

The northern coast is particularly vulnerable to the arrival of exotic pests, diseases and weeds. Papua New Guinea, for example, is about 150 kilometres from the tip of Queensland and only 3.5km from our outer Torres Strait island, Saibai.

The federal Agriculture Department, through its Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS), delivers risk-based animal and plant health surveillance and monitoring in coastal regions across northern Australia and regulates the movement of vessels, aircraft, passengers and cargo through Torres Strait.

The NAQS "zone" includes more than 10,000km of remote and largely unpopulated coast from Broome in Western Australia to Cairns in Queensland, including Torres Strait.

NAQS scientists monitor for the presence of exotic pests, weeds or diseases that can come either by natural means (wind or waterborne movement) or unregulated human activity (accidental or otherwise). The program monitors for the presence of a wide range of exotic pests – such as papaya fruit fly and Asian honey bee, weeds (Siam weed and spiked pepper), plant diseases including black Sigatoka and citrus canker, and animal diseases (foot and mouth disease and rabies being two serious threats).

The NAQS works to raise awareness about biosecurity in



Willie Roberts from Tiwi rangers maps plant locations using an iTracker device on Melville Island, Northern Territory.

communities and to encourage compliance with Torres Strait movement regulations. The program also employs indigenous ranger teams on a fee-for-service basis to provide effective biosecurity monitoring.

Indigenous communities play a particularly important role in biosecurity programs. They facilitate access to scientific survey locations on traditional lands, raise public awareness on biosecurity risks and deliver specific animal and plant health monitoring activities.

Murray Korff, NAQS program director, said the program's collaborations with indigenous

communities were vital.

"We focus on areas of high risk and this partnership with indigenous communities gives the department confidence that people with unique skill sets and strong local environmental knowledge are helping to monitor for exotic pests."

Mr Korff said NAQS also had a particularly strong working relationship with indigenous ranger groups throughout northern Australia.

"The work of indigenous rangers in northern Australia integrates very well with our biosecurity strategies. They effectively support biosecurity work we undertake in the region, particularly in

the very remote areas that can be difficult for our scientific officers to access without assistance," he said.

The rangers carry out a wide range of duties such as:

- Checking insect traps for exotic species.
- Surveying marine debris washed ashore or suspect foreign fishing vessel landing sites for items of biosecurity concern.
- Collecting blood from 'sentinel' animals to check for the presence of any exotic animal diseases.
- Participating in scientific surveys and community public awareness activities.
- Collecting weed and plant specimens.
- Looking for suspect exotic pests, weeds or plants or animals showing signs of exotic diseases (particularly the health of migratory birds and bats).

"Early detection and reporting of risk species is critical to the successful management of biosecurity threats that can, in turn, impact our agricultural production and land health, Mr Korff said. "This work, in conjunction with response measures performed by state/territory agencies, contributions from industry and the invaluable assistance of the community, helps to meet Landcare objectives such as improving our farmlands and local coastal environments, protecting wildlife habitats and tackling environmental issues of most concern to communities"

Many rangers also participate in other Landcare activities with their local communities and, while biosecurity is the primary objective of NAQS, the program values the importance of these ongoing relationships and partnerships with pastoralists and Landcare communities as contributors to Australia's biosecurity.

As Mr Korff says: "Awareness about biosecurity threats helps everyone look after their 'patch'."

## Pest, weed strategy review

THE Australian Weeds Strategy and the Australian Pest Animal Strategy provide national frameworks for addressing the problems and have a role in ensuring profitability and sustainability of Australia's primary industries. After an independent evaluation of the strategies in 2013, the Australian Weeds Committee and Vertebrate Pests Committee are revising and updating the national strategies, aiming to release new strategies in 2014. Stakeholders will be consulted as an integral part of the revision process.

## Wild dog plan endorsed

FEDERAL Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce, in conjunction with agriculture ministers from all other jurisdictions, has formally endorsed the National Wild Dog Action Plan for coordinated management of wild dogs. Mr Joyce launched the Plan on 4 July on behalf of all jurisdictions.

● Visit [www.woolproducers.com.au](http://www.woolproducers.com.au)

## SA gains \$10m drought aid

GOVERNMENT assistance is on its way to drought-affected farmers in South Australia, with \$10 million in concessional loans and funding for farmers who are dealing with feral animals and pests, and an increase of funding for the SA emergency water infrastructure program.

● Details on assistance available to farmers is available at [daff.gov.au/assistance](http://daff.gov.au/assistance).

## Senate looks at Landcare

ON June 26, the Senate announced an inquiry into the National Landcare Program for reporting by October 29. The inquiry will examine the history, effectiveness, performance and future of the program. Public submissions closed on the August 8. The terms of reference for the inquiry and information about its progress, including links to public submissions are online.

● Visit [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/landcare/Terms\\_of\\_Reference](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/landcare/Terms_of_Reference).

## 5m in anniversary grants

AUSTRALIAN communities will share in \$5 million in Landcare 25th anniversary grants 2014-15 to help restore local environments in a new initiative as part of the Federal Government's National Landcare Program. The anniversary grants for 2014-15 are expected to open mid-September.

● Visit [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

# Dairy processor backs sustainability drive

IN the crowded and competitive dairy processing industry, Lion is staking out a position based on sustainability with the help of Landcare Australia.

Lion is this year providing \$132,000 in funding across 13 Landcare-administered grants for projects that improve dairying's sustainability through reduced energy consumption, improved on-farm nutrient management or increased biodiversity.

The Lion-supported projects will produce a range of valuable outcomes in places like Moriarty, Tasmania, where effluent nutrient is recycled to reduce fertiliser use.

In Kureelipa, Queensland, effluent is stopped from entering local waterways, with collected nutrients composted and reapplied to pastures. In Kapunda, South Australia, a heat recovery system will reduce a dairy's energy use. Lion's investment in Landcare, which has topped more than \$300,000 over the past two years, has twofold value to the company, says Lion's head of agricultural procurement, Murray Jeffrey.

One element is the intrinsic value of "sustainability". Lion views sustainability from all angles – environmental, social, financial – and regards it as a core necessity for a company that aims to be in business over the long term.

"Over the years we've had this view towards long-term sustainability," Mr Jeffrey said. "We believe it's important



Murray Jeffrey

to take a partnership approach with our suppliers to ensure they have an opportunity to improve not only environmental outcomes, but also cost efficiencies on farm.

"If you look at some of the projects we've supported around reducing energy consumption, they all reduce costs on farm as well. One of the largest costs for dairies is rising energy costs. If we can put alternatives in place, like solar or wind, the better those farms will be positioned as energy costs rise."

The other aspect of sustainability is that consumers are demanding it.

"People more and more want to find out where their products come from, that the processes involved are sustainable – not just environmentally, but financially," he said. "We feel very passionately about that as well, which is why we're focused on building genuine partnerships with our dairy farmers based on competitive and secure pricing, but also other benefits, like the Landcare environmental grants, and a clear strategy that delivers confidence and growth opportunity."

The projects funded by the program also have impacts well beyond the participating farms. "Education is vital – we want people to understand what has been learnt from these projects, right

through the whole process," Mr Jeffrey said. "We've also started doing benchmarking programs with a group of our farmers, to help us understand both the success stories and opportunities to help improve efficiencies on farm. We'll share those insights with farmers so that all suppliers right through our dairy network can see what's possible out there. We also plan to use the findings to inform our other sustainability initiatives against priority areas."

As part of its long-term outlook on sustainability, Lion recently acknowledged the impact of fluctuating milk prices on dairy stability by introducing a new milk pricing model in the southern states. New contract options for southern suppliers include a variable pricing model with guaranteed safety net, one-year fixed price offer and three-year fixed price offer which may apply to up to 50 per cent of a supplier's total volume. Total contract terms up to five years are on offer.

Lion has also lifted farmgate milk prices across NSW and Queensland, including a record price increase for farmers in far north Queensland.

"Lion has a clear growth strategy focused on winning in priority segments, like milk-based beverages and specialty cheese, and this is underpinned by secure and mutually rewarding partnerships with our farmers," Mr Jeffrey said.

## NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARD FINALISTS

● From p1 of special edition Sustainable Farm Practices, Indigenous, Coastcare and Junior Landcare. The national winners of the awards, which Landcare Australia and the federal government are delivering in partnership, will be announced in Melbourne at the world heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building on September 18.

The Bob Hawke award includes prizemoney of \$50,000 to develop knowledge and skills in sustainable land management. The award has attracted Landcarers who lead by example, share ideas and are committed to making a difference in their communities. A finalist, Cam Nicholson of the regional Woody Yalook Catchment Group, featured in Landcare in Focus in February for his documented reinvigoration of landscapes. Cam will present at the national conference on regional natural resource management outcomes spanning two decades.

Also on the shortlist, Sam Archer is active in a number of Landcare groups as well as chairing the Riverina Local Land Services. Sam has turned around the operations of his sheep and cattle farm which, had been heavily degraded with salinity issues and was suffering declining productivity before he took over.

Originally the farm attracted high revenue but also had very high input costs, which resulted in a low financial margin. Sam reduced inputs and stocking rates, significantly increasing the profit margin through less intensive farming, including low intensity grazing, better stock and better ability to respond after and between droughts.

Making the top three again is 2012 runner-up Colin Seis, renowned as the creator of 'pasture cropping'. Colin invented and developed 'multi species pasture cropping' (pasture cropping) to address the ecological problems that can be associated with monoculture grain production, such as high pesticide use, and to help produce food for the growing human population while restoring grassland and soil, and thereby the sustainability of farms.

Leading crop scientists now give pasture cropping international recognition. Dr Dwayne Beck, a leading research scientist at South Dakota State University, has stated pasture cropping "probably has the best possibility of producing grain sustainably in Australia".

The National Landcare Awards are expected to attract movement veterans and will include Landcare ambassador and television personality Catriona Rowntree as master of ceremonies.

The event is part of the National Landcare Conference, which will run from September 17-19 with the theme, Celebrating our history – growing our future.

Voting for the people's choice award is open until 6pm (AEST) on September 17 and the winner will be announced at the 2014 National Landcare Awards gala dinner the next night.

● To view finalist information and photos and vote online, go to [www.landcareonline.com.au/2014nationalawards](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/2014nationalawards). For award and conference updates, follow @LandcareAust on Twitter, like LandcareAustralia on Facebook and tag #landcareawards, #landcareconf14 and #landcare25.