

# Recognising top volunteers

## Australian Government Individual Landcarer:

This award will be made to an individual volunteer who carries out and promotes Landcare through practical on-ground or community awareness activities.

### Amanda Cole, TAS

SINCE joining the Understorey Network as a volunteer 10 years ago, Amanda has worked in a variety of roles including committee member, newsletter editor, nursery coordinator and willing helper at events such as working bees, seed collecting walks, festivals and expos.

As a committee member since 2006, Amanda has shared the responsibility of managing this state-wide, volunteer-based environmental non-government organisation. In addition to Amanda's role in managing the organisation, her greatest achievements have been coordinating the development and ongoing management of Tolosa Community Nursery and Native Plants Display Garden in Glenorchy.

Through Amanda's hard work and dedication, the nursery has been built into a vibrant community partnership that supports and provides a unique opportunity for people to be engaged in the Landcare movement.

### Dr Tony Parkes, NSW

TONY'S dedication to restoring critically endangered lowland rainforest started 25 years ago when he moved to a degraded 42-hectare ex-dairy farm near Bangalow. The farm was once part of the 'Big Scrub', the largest area of lowland subtropical rainforest in Australia.

In 1992, after becoming aware that 99 per cent of this magnificent rainforest had been cleared, he helped found Big Scrub Landcare and began restoration of rainforest on his family's property. The objective of Big Scrub Landcare and Tony's work on his family property was to save the magnificent

biodiversity of Big Scrub rainforest by rehabilitating the remaining remnants, which were being rapidly degraded by weeds, and by restoring rainforest on land from which it had been cleared.

### Rhonda Williams, WA

TOGETHER with her husband Ross, Rhonda manages a sustainable and profitable farming enterprise in Western Australia's south coast region where the principles of Landcare have been an integral part of their system from the beginning.

A dedicated and passionate landcarer, Rhonda has hosted 20 field days and 30 on-farm trials and invested over 8,100 volunteer hours.

### Phillip Moran, QLD

AS A skilled environmental educator with more than 30 years experience, Phil is regularly asked for advice by private and public on conservation, property planning, restoration and sustainable land management. He is a passionate promoter of sustainable natural resource management, who is constantly helping others achieve long-term environmental outcomes in the Burnett, Mary and Sunshine Coast regions.

With a reputation as a charismatic educator, he has inspired many school and university students in his 17 years with Noosa Landcare and has dedicated many hours to supporting trainees, Community Jobs program participants and Green Army teams.

### Lewis Westbrook, SA

LEWIS is Chair of the Browns Well Landcare Group, a group of landholders in the Browns Well area who work together to complete



**MAKING AN ADDRESS:** Wendy Rainbird, ACT, is a Landcarer with 24 years' experience.

coordinated rabbit, fox and feral animal control programs. Under his guidance and vision, the group has had significant success in reducing feral animal numbers in the region. Lewis is also a long-term and passionate advocate for the vulnerable Malleefowl.

### David McAninly, VIC

MORE than 30 years ago, David recognised the benefit of trees on farms and wanted to encourage his neighbours to get planting. So he got to work, planting 50,000 trees on his dairy farm and beginning a passionate Landcare journey which has seen him at the forefront of Landcare at both a group and network level.

David's commitment to encouraging people to take up Landcare works has seen him partner with his local high school to establish a plant nursery and take hundreds of children tree planting.

He has also established one of the first rail trails, developed a school agriculture curriculum and arranged tree plantings across private and public land.

### Wendy Rainbird, ACT

A PASSIONATE Landcarer for over 24 years, Wendy has been the convenor of Farrer Ridge ParkCare Group since the mid-1990s where she has made a fundamental change to the landscape of Farrer Ridge with her enthusiasm and passion for the local natural environment.

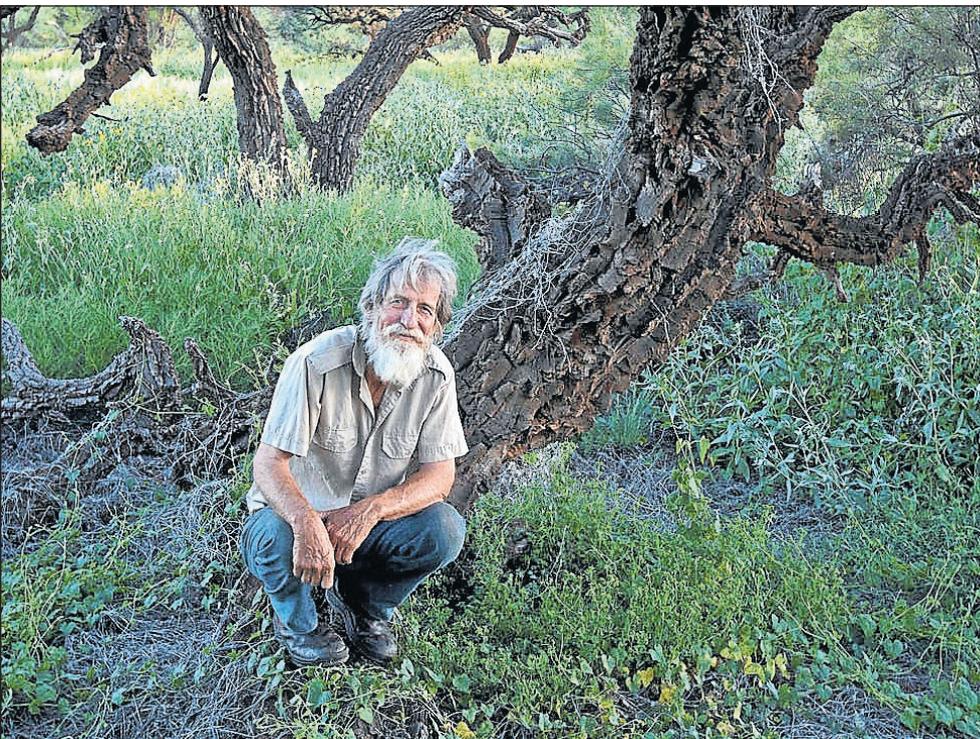
She has been a committed water-watcher for the past 12 years and has played a significant role in providing community education by promoting Landcare's message through local schools and community organisations and by sharing her knowledge of local flora, fauna and ecology. Wendy is also on the Executive of the Southern ACT

Catchment Group, is the National Council of Women's ACT Environment Adviser and is on the Executive of the Frank Fenner Foundation and the Australian National Biocentre Inc.

### Peter Latz, NT

PETER'S love of plants developed as a child growing up in an Aboriginal community and speaking Western Aranda. He worked for Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife for about forty years and has authored four books and dozens of reports and papers on the botany, ecology, ethnobotany, fire regimes and cultural history of desert Australia.

Peter is well known for his use of innovative methods, novel observations and vibrant storytelling and his book *Bushfires and Bushtucker* is considered a classic Australian text. His landcare work grew alongside his profession and has intensified since his retirement.



**WELL KNOWN:** Author of classic Australian book, *Bushfires and Bushtucker*, Peter Latz, NT.



**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR:** Phillip Moran, QLD.

# Farming innovators rewarded

## Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award

### Robbie Tole, TAS

THE high-tech farming systems implemented by Robbie at this property, "Greenvale", have earned him a reputation as pioneer in the field of sustainable intensive mixed cropping. By integrating precision irrigation, testing and sensing, vehicle controls and mapping, he efficiently produces a lot of food with lower than normal inputs of water, chemicals and electricity.

Quickly adopting many technologies wasn't easy, so Robbie now assists other farmers in achieving similar improvements. In addition to also raising around 10,000 lambs per year, Greenvale has also strategically re-vegetated with mixed local native plants in the corners of their paddocks with pivot irrigation. The wide-ranging benefits from this include crop shelter, improved pest management, carbon sequestration, water table management and wildlife habitat.

### John, Robyn and Andrew Watson, NSW

FOR over 50 years Kilmarnock Farming at Boggabri has been at the forefront of farming innovation, where the work undertaken by John and Robyn Watson saw them heralded as pioneers in irrigated cotton production and as early adopters of zero till.

In recent years the innovation

undertaken at "Kilmarnock" has been continued by their son Andrew and his wife Heike, who have recognised the need to use water more efficiently.

The farm is in the process of being totally reconfigured with large areas being converted from flood irrigation to overhead low pressure sprinkler systems - lateral move and centre pivot.

This year, they have grown record crops using less water and no insect spray highlighting that improving farm ecology is not mutually exclusive from running a profitable business.

### Trevor and Anne-Marie Mills, VIC

A ROBOTIC dairy is just one innovation that has earned Trevor and Anne-Marie Mills a reputation for innovation in sustainability practices. Trevor and Anne-Marie and their two children, own and manage a 122-hectare dairy farm in Drouin South, Gippsland.

Since Trevor took over the farm from his parents in 1997, he has led a range of innovations that have made the farm more productive, cost-effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly, including being the first dairy farmers in Australia to use the Mione robotic milking system.

Trevor's commitment to



**INNOVATOR:** John Starr, Gold Creek Station, ACT speaks at the 2015 State and Territory Landcare Awards.

sustainability has seen him undertake extensive environmental and productive improvements to his property, including planting around 30,000 trees, installing three kilometres of wind breaks, planting wildlife corridors and protecting two kilometres of creek frontage.

In addition to his on-farm leadership, Trevor has promoted sustainable agricultural practices to many community groups to increase general public awareness of the role farmers play in improving biodiversity and natural resources.

### Southampton Homestead, WA

BASED on a philosophy that all systems of the planet are connected and all interdependent and that nothing happens in isolation, Southampton Homestead owners Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus raise livestock using holistic management - a biologically-active, and herd-based system of carefully planned grazing of livestock.

The practice is based on managed grazing of domestic livestock to mimic the behaviour of wild herbivores interacting with grassland ecosystems and through it they grow and process all food on

their farm and bring the produce directly to their customers, enhancing animal welfare outcomes and regenerating their soil.

### John Starr, ACT

JOHN has spent a lifetime on the land and has witnessed many variations to landcare issues over the last 60 years. John has always managed his land to capability in order to protect and enhance the property's native and introduced pastures and maintain groundcover.

John manages his steeper country with shallow soils differently to his fertile flats, running less stock on the 'lighter country' and destocking these areas during drought or over winter when pasture feed is low. After drought he allows native grasses on these areas to fully recover before reintroducing stock. This conservation approach to farming has received recognition from environmental groups and the ACT Government.

John has been involved in community tree planting events, such as the Olympic Landcare in 2002 which saw 10,000 trees planted along Halls Creek, including 6000 on his property alone. He has undertaken other revegetation

programs on the property, and due to his management, has seen the regeneration of the Red Gum Yellow Box ecological community across areas of his property.

### Steve and Rebecca Cadzow, NT

STEVE and Rebecca Cadzow are committed to growing quality, chemical-free, environmentally sustainable beef on their family owned NT property, Mt Riddock Station.

For the pair, taking care of the land means taking care of every aspect of the landscape as a whole for future generations, which they are achieving through a continuous adaptive management approach that has seen them lead the way in adopting innovative practices in their region.

The Cadzows were amongst the first to adopt rotational grazing in the arid zone and have worked closely with researchers to test its potential in this landscape context.

As active landcare members their sustainable enterprise is underpinned by the latest technology, improving their ability to take fine scale management actions to optimise production.

# Engagement and determination help marine health

## Coastcare Award

### Tasmania

**PORT Esperance Coastcare** is a group of volunteers from Dover, Roaring Bay and the surrounding areas with a long history of working closely with the broader community in Dover and with the Huon Valley Council to manage coastal environmental issues.

The stretch of Dover Beach coastline overseen by Port Esperance Coastcare is subject to high tides and storm activity and the group's longest running project has been to stabilise the dune frontage through plantings and dedicated beach access.

The broader community is reaping the benefits of the group's work with a more resilient recreation areas.

### NSW

PARTNERING their passion for rock climbing with environmental restoration works, the **Sydney**

**Rockclimbing Club** has been involved in bush regeneration in northern Sydney.

The group started bush regeneration works at Barrenjoey Headland when a member noticed the activities of the rock climbers were damaging the vegetation around the cliffs.

### Western Australia

**WEST Coastcare (Inc)** evolved from a group of seven individuals in 2007 to being responsible for the management, educational and sustainability activities of Mettams Pool, North Beach, in partnership with local government, City of Stirling, Marmion Primary School and the local community.

### Queensland

FROM 60 residents involved in local weeding groups to the Eco Discovery workshops and turtle



Port Esperance, Tas, volunteers Nepelle Crane and Dave de Little.

monitoring and action network monitoring 100 nests, the **Coolum District Coast Care** team is at the forefront of community engagement, coastal management

and citizen science. Since 2001, the group has sought to galvanise energy and public interest in caring for the coastal environment on the Maroochy

north shore of the Sunshine Coast and beyond.

### Victoria

SINCE 2009, the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network's Coastal Saltmarsh Protection Project has protected more than 700 hectares of saltmarsh between Port Albert and Reeves Beach which adjoins the wetlands of Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park in Gippsland.

### Northern Territory

A SEAFOOD industry initiative, the annual **Darwin Harbour Clean-Up (DHCU) Partners** has for six years brought together government and non-government agencies, private businesses and community groups for a weekday clean-up activity.

The clean-up continues to raise awareness about rubbish entering waterways and encourages people to "bin it or take it with you".

# Supporting Landcare youth

**Junior Landcare Team Award:** This award is made to a youth organisation or young Landcare team that contributes to raising awareness, knowledge and understanding of Landcare amongst young people up to the age of 18, and implements Landcare practices on its own property or within the local community.

## Huon Valley Roamers Landcare, TAS

FROM traditional on-ground activities to awareness raising activities and experiences, and generally caring for the land, the Huon Valley Roamers Landcare group aim to complement existing Landcare activities and offer alternative experiences to members of the community who aren't able to commit to regular working bees or Committee meetings.

The Roamers have embraced the "Landcare is for Everyone" slogan by taking the approach that Landcare can be whatever you want it to be – education, experience, appreciation, caring. The group has a strong focus on families, and their greatest success and passion has been engaging with youth and kids. They have had great success working directly with and/or promoting activities to local schools and home-schooling groups, and youth groups such as Scouts, with interest from these groups continuing to increase.

## Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre – Creative Catchment Kids Program, NSW

LED by a team of educators, students and schools, the Creative Catchment Kids program's mission is to connect kids to their region in order to develop more resilient landscapes and communities through attitudinal change and on-ground natural resource management action and practices.

Through the program, staff at Wirraminna help primary school students in over 60 Murray and Riverina schools research, write and publish books about 'Local Land Heroes' – farmers, teachers, community identities and groups who are helping to improve the environment in a productive landscape.

Through CCK's positive and practical programs, students are encouraged to learn about and respond to natural resource management, the importance of agricultural production, biosecurity and pest management.

## Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers Cadets, WA

THE 14-16 year old students that make up the Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers Cadets learn about Landcare principles and values and apply them to their own circumstances, educating others on the way. The cadets work on a range of environmental programs across the Esperance region, and have been supporting South Coast NRM projects and activities since 2008.

Displaying their commitment to improving the community in which they live, the Bush Rangers have undertaken dune rehabilitation at a popular Esperance beach, removing weeds and re-introducing native plants to the dune system.

## Little Gems Children's Centre, QLD

IN THE tiny outback Gulf Country town of Georgetown, Little Gems



**SHINING BRIGHTLY:** QLD Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Little Gems Children's Centre director Jane Borg and educator Amanda Butler.

Children's Centre has driven environmental changes through a program to teach the children and community how to sustain our environment and be environmentally friendly. The activities implemented by the staff at the centre to become more environmentally friendly include the creation of a vegetable garden, litter free lunch boxes, recycling cans from the community, recycling bags for clothes, recycling materials from home for art and craft at the centre, use of recycled materials in the outdoor area, collecting scraps for compost and chooks and the implementation of a worm farm.

The centre has also partnered with government organisations and community groups to create a visual garden at the front of the centre that

encourages education and understanding of local plants and flora.

## Barmera Primary School, SA

BARMERA Primary School has become a leader in environmental education in their region through the introduction of initiatives such as the Kids Teaching Kids expos, where students 'fight the good fight' for the environment by researching a range of environmental topics to present workshops on for their classmates.

## Barwon Heads Primary School, VIC

LIVING in a coastal town near mangroves, seagrass meadows, grassy woodlands, farmland and the Coastal Moonah Woodlands, Barwon Heads Primary School students see the daily impact on the coastal and marine environment.

Since 2012 the Let Our Sea Be Plastic Bag Free project has seen Grade 5 and 6 students design the branding used on over 4,000 reusable jute shopping bags, town signage, roadside drain stencilling, community screen printing and giant marine puppets.

Students have also asked the company providing the school's lunch orders to support the project by supplying lunches in an alternative bag, removing more than 10,000 plastic bags annually.

The support of local businesses has driven a decrease in the distribution of plastic bags to shoppers by 23 per cent in the first eight months. The project has expanded into other schools, camp grounds, local festivals, community markets and the township of Ocean Grove.

## Wanniassa Hills Primary School, ACT

UNDER the leadership of environment science teacher Deb

Shaw, Wanniassa Hills Primary School has transformed a school environment centre building into a vibrant and productive hands-on environmental teaching area complete with vegetable gardens, a chicken enclosure, a plastic bottle greenhouse and a frog pond. Every week students learn about natural resource management and sustainability in the kitchen garden sessions, planting and harvesting vegetables and preparing meals to share.

Students also take part in broader activities such as native plant propagation and planting sessions, and share their ideas about the environment and sustainability at student conferences.

Deb has recruited students and parent volunteers to help with the development of the environment centre and the delivery of its teaching programs, allowing for the broad school community to learn about the environment, natural resource management and sustainability.

## Alawa Primary School, NT

ALAWA Primary School is focused on sustainable land development and caring for animals in an urban environment in the tropics.

To provide an increased focus on issues such as sustainability, the school commenced the 'Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden' program, and introduced a philosophy that underpins enjoyable food education.

Through setting good examples and engaging children's curiosity, energy and taste buds, the program provides positive and memorable food and gardening experiences that will contribute to the development of positive lifelong healthy habits.



**SETTING AN EXAMPLE:** Alawa Primary School, NT.

# Indigenous ingenuity

## Indigenous Land Corporation Land Management:

This award is made to an outstanding indigenous community group or individual that is working towards improving land use and/or enhancing or protecting an area on behalf of the community.

### weetapooona Aboriginal Corporation (wAC), TAS

RECONCILIATION is at the heart of the work being carried out by the weetapooona Aboriginal Corporation. Since the group's inception they have formed a range of positive and constructive relationships with local community groups, local farmers and NRM organisations in order to protect and enhance natural assets on Murrayfield Station.

Murrayfield is a large sheep farm situated on North Bruny Island, previously owned by the Indigenous Land Corporation and only recently handed back to weetapooona.

weetapooona have allowed several organisations to carry out important research on Murrayfield, such as pardalote habitat recovery, pasture management and soil health, and Eastern quoll surveys.

### Dwayne Evans, NSW

AFTER overcoming a troubled past, Dwayne found his passion in looking after country at Winterriga Station near Wilcannia, where he works as the station's land manager.

He now shares his passion with other troubled young Aboriginal men as he helps them find their own sense of belonging and connection.

Combining traditional practices like burning with modern approaches like using a gyrocopter to muster, Dwayne is transforming a landscape that was severely degraded before he took over the management.

### Woolkabunning Kiaka (Inc), WA

LOCATED on the Collie River, in the Bunbury Region of Western Australia, Roelands Village has been transformed from its past as Mission into a prosperous farm changing the lives of the region's young Indigenous population.

Woolkabunning Kiaka Inc's main purpose is to provide opportunities for guests and visitors to Roelands to interact with and learn about the Roelands Mission story and Aboriginal cultural heritage - while providing opportunities for Aboriginal people to take responsibility for their future.

As part of the commitment to the sustainability of the former Roelands



**LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMER:** Dwayne Evans receives his award from Orange MP, Andrew Gee.

Mission in Western Australia, Woolkabunning Kiaka Inc (WKI) are now in the execution stage of a strategic plan for the village and have undertaken programs such as the youth focused RESPECT project, signed and carried out a volunteer MoU with South West TAFE, established WKI Works Crew and run Roelands Village Community Volunteer Action Days.

### Fraser Island World Heritage Area Indigenous Advisory Committee, QLD

THE Recognising and Recording K'Gari's (Fraser Island) Cultural Heritage project was initiated by the Fraser Island World Heritage Area Indigenous Advisory Committee in 2012 and was delivered by the Butchulla people and Aboriginal Rangers of Fraser Island in conjunction with Fauna & Flora International Australia.

Through strong partnerships, the project provided training to the Butchulla community, leading to additional cultural heritage sites being located, including the highly significant Bogimbah Mission gravesites on this World Heritage listed property.

### Barapa Culture Team, VIC

THE Barapa Water for Country project centres around the Barapa Culture Team members identifying, mapping and recording the cultural values of the Lower Gunbower Forest to improve the management of environmental water.

It involves the sharing of information and knowledge on the cultural and spiritual values of the area and is assisting the voices of Barapa Barapa Traditional Owners to be heard in the water management of the forest.

Last year, the team, an archaeologist and ecologists, surveyed the forest to identify and map cultural heritage

sites such as scar trees, earth mounds, shell middens and the food, fibre and medicine plants used by their ancestors.

The team walked different habitats - lagoon edges, sand hills, creek lines and swamps - learning about the plants that grow in these areas and what would have been eaten or collected at different times of the year, whilst developing skills in identifying cultural heritage.

### Wally Bell, ACT

WALLY Bell is a Ngunawal man who has used his cultural knowledge of country to maintain land for decades.

The eldest in his family, he is carrying on the knowledge from his father to maintain and enhance country throughout the Ngunawal region, which includes and extends beyond the ACT.

Wally's qualifications in conservation and land management compliment his cultural knowledge and he uses both scientific and Aboriginal approaches to look after his traditional lands.

### Crocodile Island Rangers, NT

THE Crocodile Islands Rangers manage the land and sea country of the Crocodile Islands, situated off the coast of north east Arnhem Land.

The rangers manage about 40,000 hectares of land, 200km of coastline and 6000km<sup>2</sup> of sea country within Castlereagh Bay.

The ranger group was set up by the Traditional Owners (TOs), and is governed by an executive committee.

The 10 full-time rangers work closely with the TOs, elders, junior rangers and the community in a wide variety of land and sea management activities.

The rangers use their land and sea management training, skills and knowledge, along with their traditional Indigenous ecological knowledge, to manage and protect their unique area.

# Success through teamwork

## Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare Award

### Tasmania

FOR the past two years, the **South East Regional Shorebird Alliance** has worked in collaboration with local communities to protect beach-nesting shorebirds, including threatened Terns, Hooded Plover and the beach-nesting seabird, the Little Penguin, while also working with communities across coastal Southern Tasmania to raise understanding through on-ground action, resource development and sharing, and engagement and awareness raising activities.

### NSW

WORKING with almost 300 volunteer Landcare groups to protect and rehabilitate local environments and ecosystems, **Lake Macquarie Landcare** is the largest network of Landcare groups in NSW.

Built on a successful working partnership between passionate local volunteers and Lake Macquarie City Council, the organisation works to preserve

unique biodiversity, increase wildlife habitat, promote bushland regeneration and reduce erosion and sedimentation.

### Western Australia

THE **South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare's** evolution from a collection of five community groups in Perth's southern suburbs to one of the largest not-for-profit, community driven Landcare groups in Australia has been built off the back of a commitment to bringing together the community, business and government to develop and implement projects that improve the health of our waterways and other ecosystems.

### Queensland

THROUGH partnerships with local catchment groups, scientists and traditional owners, the **Balnggarawarra Rangers** are working to preserve biodiversity values in the unique Melsonby (Gaaraay) Nature Refuge.

Their work has connected Gaaraay Traditional Owners back

to country and enabled rangers, elders and school students to participate in field trips and events on-country to grow knowledge of country, harvest bush tucker and restore traditional cultural practices.

### South Australia

THE **South Australian regional Regent Parrot Recovery Team** has seen the establishment of a 1800Parrot hotline to gather information about the movement, feeding areas and flight paths of the birds and the use of nest cameras and radio tracking to obtain information about their daily movements, breeding ecology and feeding behaviour.

### Victoria

TO protect native vegetation against the threats posed by weeds and rabbits the **Rural City of Wangaratta**, with Landcare assistance, have devised and implemented a range of innovative practices such as practical on-ground works, community engagement and awareness raising.



Mark Jamieson and Jason Carrol, representing Queensland award winner, the Balnggarawarra Rangers.

### ACT

THE **ACT Woodland Restoration Program** (2011-2018) is connecting and restoring woodland across 60,000 hectares in the ACT and NSW.

The program has established a multi-stakeholder delivery model between government and the Landcare community which is unique in the ACT.

# Helping make a difference

## Australian Government Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator Award

### Holly Hansen, TAS

AS A committed and passionate Landcare facilitator for the past 17 years, Holly has helped many groups and individuals achieve their Landcare goals.

A former Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year Award recipient, she has had an extensive and diverse career working with Greening Australia as a Bushcare Extension Officer and Huon Valley Council as the NRM Coordinator.

Her current role is as a facilitator at NRM South.

### Cherie White, NSW

FOR nearly twenty years, Cherie has been supporting landholders, the Landcare community and regional organisations to engage and implement sustainable land management practices. As the coordinator of the Riverina Highlands Landcare Network based at Tumut, she has empowered, rejuvenated and supported Landcare Groups to undertake ambitious yet integrated natural resource management projects which has led to noticeable improvements in our landscape.



**PASSIONATE FACILITATORS:** Cherie White and Julie Anorov, NSW.

### Jill Richardson, WA

JILL'S passion for grassroots environmental protection and restoration has taken her on a 25 year journey with Landcare in Western Australia. Jill has forged strong relationships with community-based conservation groups, regional natural resource management organisations, state and federal agencies and private landholders.

### Kay Enkelmann, QLD

FROM arranging free one-on-one consultation sessions for South Burnett growers impacted by the 2013 floods to working with Growing The Burnett on the development of sustainable farming practices and small acreage horticulture, Kay's has spent close to a decade working with and supporting Landcare and other rural, regional community groups to help them achieve their goals.

As the Regional Landcare Facilitator for the Burnett Mary, Kay is closely

engaged in a wide range of Landcare activities operating throughout the region and helps Landcare groups and other community-based producer groups achieve long-term change and sustainability.

### Rob Fallon, VIC

DESPITE being personally affected by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria, Rob threw himself into the challenge of helping landholders across the devastated region.

After funding was established to support Landcare for bushfire affected communities in the

Yarra Ranges, Rob was appointed Northern Yarra Landcare Facilitator.

He has also facilitated more than 40 workshops.

### Martin Lind, ACT

AS THE Waterwatch Coordinator for Southern ACT, Martin supports more than 30 volunteers, monitoring over 50 Waterwatch sites - double the number

when he started in the role.

In the last financial year alone, he and his team produced 492 water quality surveys, 79 water bug surveys and 52 riparian assessments.

This valuable dataset will be used in the Waterwatch Catchment Health Indicator Program (CHIP) report card for 2014/15 and will contribute to the better management of the region's waterways.

### Vanessa Drysdale, NT

VANESSA has been a Sea Country Facilitator for Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation for nearly eight years, during which time she has helped build their capacity to look after land and sea for Yolngu traditional owners and custodians.



Vanessa Drysdale.



Kay Enkelmann.

# Eager to be a young Landcare leader

## Manpower Young Landcare Leader Award

### Hannah Moloney, TAS

HANNAH has spent the last ten years initiating, coordinating and delivering a wide range of sustainable food production and land management projects with a strong community and educational focus.

With her company Good Life Permaculture and various partnerships, she has built and designed community gardens, taught permaculture, and delivered programs on composting and waste management.

### Amy Hammond, NSW

WITH a strong sense of her Aboriginal identity, Amy sees her volunteer work with Galala Rivercare as a way to build a connection with country and its people, as well as contribute to a better environment.

Since joining the group in 2013, Amy has taken the lead in co-ordinating projects for Rivercare colleagues, including family days at the river, primary school visits, NAIDOC Community days and Aboriginal weaving workshops.

### Ella Maesepp, WA

FOR Ella, Landcare isn't just her job, it's a way of life.

Ella's passion and expertise saw her involved in the collection of millions of dollars in funding for local projects in the Upper Blackwood including the establishment of more than 800,000 trees, 400 kilometres of fences and over 700 hectares of perennial pastures.

### Naomi Edwards, QLD

NAOMI'S commitment to addressing environmental issues and to the Landcare movement has seen her successfully drive a range of Landcare initiatives.

She is passionate about intergenerational engagement in Landcare and has co-founded Gold Coast Intrepid Landcare in partnership with local Intrepid Landcare Ambassadors and Illawarra Intrepid Landcare.

### Kate Williams, VIC

IN HER five years as project officer for the South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN), Kate has been



Ian Rayner

instrumental in delivering real benefits to the local landscape, particularly in her role championing the mitigation of pest plants and animals (PPAs) in the region.

### Ian Rayner, ACT

OVER the past five years working in the Lower Cotter Catchment, Ian has engaged thousands of volunteers to plant hundreds of thousands of trees across 500 hectares, using a range of



Daniel Chapman

novel and innovative activities to regenerate the landscape after the 2003 bushfires and protect Canberra's water supply.

He often draws more than 200 volunteers to his landcare events through his unique promotional abilities.

### Daniel Chapman, NT

SINCE taking up the position of Savanna Regional Coordinator with

Territory Natural Resource Management in March 2014, Daniel has formed excellent relationships with land holders and NT Government staff operating in the region.

He has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills, encouraging the community to get involved in natural resource management activities through developing capacity within the region.

# Join the Earth's defenders

ON THE afternoon of February 8, 1983, the bush came to town.

Shortly before 3pm that day, workers in Melbourne's CBD looked out their office windows to see an apocalyptic sight: a 300 metre dust cloud rolling towards them.

The storm was the result of what was at that point considered the worst drought in Australia's history. The choking dust that engulfed Melbourne was precious topsoil from Victoria's Mallee and Wimmera, stripped from the drought-ravaged landscape and carried away on the wind.

For Pam Robinson, a fine-wool farmer from north-eastern Victoria who was visiting Melbourne, the day proved to be the catalyst for a push for widespread grassroots environmental action.

"It felt like an event of awful significance. I knew it would scare people, yet speak volumes about what was happening on the land," Pam said.

Before the dust storm, Pam and neighbouring farmer Angus Howell had already come up with the groundbreaking idea of uniting farmers to work cooperatively on land conservation.

"There were dying trees and patches of bare ground in the countryside," she said. "The land was in trouble."

"We worked with district soil conservation officers and developed a conservation plan.

"In 1983 we officially became the Warrenbayne Boho Land Protection Group Inc. It was a pioneering time. Warrenayne Boho Land Protection Group showed how a Landcare group could work, and I helped Joan Kimer (Minister for Conservation, Forests and Land) and Heather Mitchell (President of the Victorian Farmers Federation) plan Landcare as a partnership between community and government."

Pam, who in the past 25 years has served on Landcare committees from local to national level and been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia, says "the wonderful thing about Landcare is that you take the experience wherever you go. You have it for life."

"Its power is as a social movement, bringing people together to gain strength and pleasure through attending to our land, water and air."

Pam Robinson was - and still is - a Defender of the Earth. She took matters into her own hands and played a key part in developing a movement that changed the Australian landscape forever.

Landcare Australia is looking for the next Pam Robinson and the next generation of Defenders of the Earth. People, who like Pam, are engaged yet pragmatic about the burgeoning challenges currently affecting the Australian landscape. People who are mindfully committed to the protection and sustainability of the world they love, yet are seeking a tangible way they can realistically contribute to quantifiable change for our future. People who are interested in investing in innovative projects that will have a major impact on the sustainable longevity of our Australian landscape and benefit the future of all Australians.

By joining Landcare's 'Defender of the Earth' group for only \$1 per day (\$30 per month) or through a one-off donation, you will have the opportunity to continue the movement that Pam Robinson helped begin - and protect Australia's precious landscape into the future.

Starting from a simple concept in 1983, the Landcare movement has grown to over 6,000 groups throughout Australia, with more than 100,000 passionate



Landcare volunteers across Australia.

These volunteers are true Landcare heroes and Defenders of the Earth. They are farmers, community leaders and teachers, parents and children, part-time botanists, scientists and engineers - all working to restore the land that sustains us all.

They are selfless individuals who are the backbone of the Landcare movement; without their united efforts, the scale, impact and success of their projects would not be possible.

We want this to continue into the future, but we need your help to make it happen.

Our goal this financial year is to start

small with \$30,000 worth of innovative grants and grow this fund over the next few years to a level that will have real impact in many more communities across Australia.

Your contribution of \$1 per day - or even a one-off donation as a Landcare 'Defender of the Earth' - will help us fund our new Landcare innovative solutions fund.

Furthermore, by becoming a monthly giver you will have the power to choose which projects should get funded.

Every year, Landcare Australia will ask groups across the country to submit a proposal for a project that has the capacity to revolutionise the Australian

landscape. From the submissions we receive we will choose five projects that will be presented to you for your say on which ones deserve your funding.

We will provide you with updates on how your funds will be distributed, what projects have been chosen and the success and results of these projects.

What happened in the 1980s to our Australian landscape should never be allowed to happen again. Help write the next chapter of our Australian landscape history by becoming a Landcare 'Defender of the Earth'

To donate to Landcare's 'Defender of the Earth' initiative please visit: [www.defendersoftheearth.org.au](http://www.defendersoftheearth.org.au).



## Yes! I want to become a Landcare 'Defender of the Earth'

Your gift will contribute to an innovative 'solutions' fund to support Landcare groups who present new, innovative and radical ideas that can transform the Australian Landscape.



BECOME A DEFENDER OF THE EARTH.



An initiative of Landcare Australia.

### 1. Please accept my regular monthly gift of:

Please note: credit cards only

- \$15 per month    \$45 per month  
 \$30 per month    My choice of \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Or please accept my one-off gift of:

- \$20    \$100  
 \$50    My choice of \$\_\_\_\_\_

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

### 2. My donation method:

- My cheque/money order (made payable to Landcare Australia Limited)

Or, Please debit my:    Visa    Mastercard

Credit card number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date:  /  CVV:

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. My Details:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Donate today at [www.defendersoftheearth.org.au](http://www.defendersoftheearth.org.au)

Please cut this form and send it back to:  
 Landcare Australia, Reply Paid 87929, WEST  
 CHATSWOOD NSW 1515 or call us on 1800151105

