

Catriona's back on the farm

By SHEENA COFFEY

HER voice called out to me from the other side of a solid and green hedge.

Clear, but slightly throaty, it resonated over the trimmed, green lawn, instantly recognisable.

For anybody, like me, who has spent many a Thursday evening travelling the world with Catriona Rowntree on Channel 9's *Geaway*, meeting her in person lives up to every expectation set by her bubbly and effervescent television personality.

While jetsetting around the globe may be her better known role, Ms Rowntree will lend her support to the National Landcare Awards in Canberra on June 24.

A strange pairing? Not if you know Ms Rowntree, who has a deep affection for the land and the people who live and work on it.

She grew up at Quirindi, near Tamworth in northern NSW, and returning there to deliver an Australia Day speech a few years ago she was taken aback to realise how lucky she had been to spend her formative years at such a location.

"I looked out into the crowd and children were barefoot, we were surrounded by beautiful, green grass and I thought 'this is the envy of the world,'" Ms Rowntree said.

Now, on her home patch west of Melbourne, where she lives with her husband, James Pettit, and son Andrew, 10 months, Ms Rowntree



Television presenter, Catriona Rowntree, pictured on her property in rural Victoria, will host the National Landcare Awards in Canberra on June 24.

plants 1220 hectares to crop on their own and share-farmed land: a mix of wheat, barley and canola.

Mr Pettit also chairs the Geelong Landcare network which encompasses

"He does it for free, gives all his spare time and I see the people he works with are of the same thought."

"They love their area, they love what they do and I love having the opportunity to be able to help my husband in a small way."

Hosting the upcoming awards allows Ms Rowntree to put in her "two bobs' worth", but also to draw attention to the varied and important work local Landcare groups carry out.

"It's not all about glitzy national campaigns; I think the importance of clearing up serrated tussock is equally as valuable as keeping the Great Barrier Reef disease free."

And this work, Mr Pettit added, was "possibly more achievable".

On their property, land care is an integral part of operations and projects are "constant".

About 10 per cent of the property is fenced off into a plantation, and sensitive or non-arable areas have been returned to their native state.

"It's visually beautiful to return an area to its natural state, but also to care for an area by allowing it to flourish naturally," Ms Rowntree said.

Indeed, moving to the country from her former North Shore Sydney home has been filled with many pleasures.

"I cherish every moment I have here and appreciate the tiny things like collecting chook eggs for my breakfast and for making amazing cakes."

"I've swapped a glitzy city gym for a local community hall."

"I have a small group of wonderful friends who have been incredibly supportive of me and I love my local mothers group."

"But I do think that for me, somebody who spends her time travelling the world, I am able to come back here and to deeply value everything we have."

■ The National Landcare Awards will be held at Canberra on June 24.

It's not all about glitzy national campaigns; I think the importance of clearing up serrated tussock is equally as valuable as keeping the Great Barrier Reef disease free

— Catriona Rowntree

speaks with a similar fondness of her family's property.

Here they run a self-replacing finewool Merino flock and Mr Pettit

owns seven local groups.

"For as long as I've known James he has been deeply passionate about Landcare," Ms Rowntree said.

Green-thumbed volunteers get the red carpet treatment

TWENTY years of Landcare will be celebrated in Canberra on June 24, when the contributions of 88 individual and group Landcarers will be acknowledged in the 2010 National Landcare Awards ceremony.

The bi-annual awards celebrate the achievements of ordinary people making an extraordinary difference.

The 88 finalists in the running for 12 award categories represent

the winners of the 2009 State and Territory awards.

Winners in each category will be announced in front of 600 people at the National Landcare Gala Awards ceremony and dinner.

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, said the awards recognised the people who were making a valuable contribution to the nation's future.

"These awards recognise the

volunteers who are rebuilding the Australian landscape," he said.

"The strength of Landcare is its people and their commitment to each other, their communities and their nation."

"For more than 20 years, Landcare has brought together people from all walks of life with a shared commitment to making a difference to their local environment and community."

"The Australian landscape and

Australian society is richer for their contribution."

In keeping with Landcare's evolution over 20 years, the 2010 awards show an extraordinary breadth of endeavour.

"The National Landcare Awards span the breadth and diversity of landcare work, from the city to the bush, the ocean to the centre, from big landscape-scale projects to small local projects involving local people," said

Heather Campbell, chief executive of Landcare Australia.

Landcare is a uniquely Australian partnership between the community, government and business, consisting of approximately 4000 Landcare and 2000 Coastcarevolunteer groups.

■ To find out how you can become a Landcare volunteer and for full details on all 2010 National Landcare finalists, visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Meet the 2010 National Landcare Awards finalists and vote today!

People's Choice Award

Voting opens Sunday 30th May until Wednesday 23rd June 2010

The winner will be announced at the National Landcare Awards, 24th June 2010 in Canberra



National
Landcare
Awards

www.landcareonline.com

Vote, leave a message of support, be inspired



The individuals who inspire ...

THE Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award is made to an individual who carries out or promotes land or coast care through either on-ground or awareness activities, in a volunteer capacity.

○ **MILLIE NICHOLLS (SA):** A local farmer and founding member of the volunteer-based Mid-North Grasslands Working Group (MNGWG), Millie Nicholls has championed the role of grasslands in sustainable agriculture.

With a background that includes a role as extension officer for the World Wide Fund for Nature's Native Grassland Project and Holistic Management training, she recognised the need to change management on her own farm, and across the region, if profitability and sustainability were to be jointly lifted.

Millie has since become a leader in native grassland management. MNGWG actively supports more than 300 farmers in the State's mid and upper north, and has delivered a range of resources, from grazing guidelines to plant identification guides. Her work has restored the role of native grasslands as an asset to both farmers and the environment.

○ **KATE McLAREN (NSW):** A driving force behind Landcare and grassroots conservation in the

Tamworth region, Kate McLaren (pictured) shares her passion and knowledge with the community and with the scientific and education sectors.

A leader by example, she owns two large parcels of land, managed under Voluntary Conservation Agreements, that preserve environmental values in an area north of Tamworth that has been highly modified by agriculture.

In her Landcare role, Kate has been instrumental in creating educational brochures relevant to Landcare and has given considerable time to bringing in funding for a range of conservation projects in the area.

Her work continues outside Landcare, as when she initiated the protection of rare white box grassy woodland from an invasion of Coolat grass.

○ **ROBYN MAPP (Qld):** A tireless worker and advocate for Landcare in the Callide Valley since 1990, Robyn Mapp (pictured) has introduced the Biloela farming community to new and novel techniques for allowing production and conservation to flourish side-by-side.

Robyn co-ordinated the introduction of Natural Sequence Farming techniques to local properties, managed the renewal of recharge zones in Callide Creek, and has been the catalyst for the formation of special interest groups, like one dedicated to control of Parthenium weed.

She has also been involved in many on-farm research projects which, with her commitment to bringing in funding and education, have helped transform the approach of many landholders to their natural resources.

○ **DESLEY KIPPAX (Tas):** A driver of Landcare in the Huon Valley since 1997, Desley Kippax (pictured) has played an important role in teaching children the value of natural resource management.

The Port Cygnet Land and Watercare Group, which Desley helped found, along with Cygnet Junior Landcare, has been at the forefront of conserving Cygnet Catchment and Burton's Reserve in southern Tasmania.

Her ability to work with people from all walks of life has helped the group work with landholders from across the catchment, and her after-hours commitment to environmental monitoring and committees means she continues to be a mainstay of Landcare in the region.

○ **ARIE BOS (Vic):** As president of the Agnes River Landcare group and director with the South

Gippsland Landcare Network, Arie Bos (pictured) has actively shaped the direction and success of the region's Landcare efforts for more than a decade.

With a neighbouring Landcare group, Arie has monitored the water flowing into Corner Inlet for 13 years and has determined that his group's work is having a positive impact on water quality.

He has worked with many other groups, on issues as diverse as koala conservation, fox baiting and flora reserves, and is instrumental in "kitchen garden" programs run by local schools.

He strives to help people understand their environment, and its interconnectedness.

○ **GLENN McFARLANE (NT):** Darwin sea turtle researcher and conservationist Glenn McFarlane (pictured) is at the forefront of efforts to minimise the threats facing the region's sea turtles.

He trained in sea turtle biology in Costa Rica, and since 1999 has been

Marine Species Manager for Conservation Volunteers Australia.

In this role, he has worked to improve community understanding of sea turtles through school presentations, training in handling protocols and the media.

Following the identification of Darwin Harbour as a vital turtle nesting area, Glenn obtained a Federal Government grant for the monitoring of nesting turtles and tracking of marine debris via satellite during 2008 and 2009.

○ **MIKE KERKMAN (WA):** Farming on the edge of semi-arid station country at Pindar in Western Australia, Mike Kerkmans (pictured) has worked at developing a sustainable system of agriculture in a fragile area.

Mike has undertaken



Rowan Cootes and South Australia's nominee for the Individual Landcarer award, Millie Nicholls, Clare, SA.

numerous trials with the Department of Agriculture on ideas that in many cases have demonstrated increased productivity on lesser rainfall.

He has hosted field days and workshops to demonstrate farming practices on his own farm and is a vocal advocate for oil mallees, of which he has planted more than 500,000.

He is experimenting with using biochar at planting, and developing a controlled traffic alley farming system.

He is also an active conservationist, fencing off remnant vegetation and low-lying drainage areas.

○ **MARYKE BOOTH (ACT):** A committed member of the Molonglo Catchment Group, Friends of Grasslands, Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee and the Royalla Landcare Group, Maryke Booth is making a difference in the

Canberra region.

As founder and Chair of the Royalla Landcare Group, Maryke (pictured) has co-ordinated river restoration and revegetation, engaged the community through activities like National Tree Day, and promoted seminars and other educational opportunities.

Her commitment to Landcare has meant many volunteers have built on their knowledge and skill on issues like controlling weeds and revegetating for the enhancement of the local environment.

She is an active working member of the various groups she belongs to, and an inspiration to others.

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Primary producers keep the balance

THE Woolworths Primary Producer Award goes to a primary producer for their significant contribution to landcare, shown through developing and implementing sound management practices resulting in sustainable productivity.

○ **BRIAN BAXTER (Tas):** On 693-hectare "Greenside" at Pipers River, Brian Baxter is working on environmentally valuable outcomes that help farm productivity.

His property is being converted to time-controlled grazing, to allow vegetation to more fully recover between grazings and ensure greater quantities of permanent groundcover.

He has built an eight-kilometre wallaby fence to improve pasture production, has fenced off creeks to improve water quality and reduce erosion, and removed willows in the Pipers River to encourage regeneration of native vegetation.

As part of his ongoing commitment to Landcare, Brian works with specialists to trial and implement new techniques on-farm.

○ **CLOVER HILL DAIRIES (NSW):** Run by seventh-generation dairy farmers, the Strong family, Clover Hill Dairies at Jamberoo is proof that high productivity and environmental credentials can co-exist.

Over six years, the Strong's have lifted herd numbers from 80 to 210 cows, and at the same time boosted milk yield from 800,000 litres to 2.5 million litres.

With several production records to its credit, the dairy is believed to have the highest yielding pasture-fed cows in Australia.

Only half the 100ha farm is grazed; important remnant rainforest communities in the remaining area are fenced off, and the Strong's are progressively fencing off stock access to waterways and minimising crossing points.

The dairy regularly hosts open days, and Lynne Strong is a passionate and active industry advocate.

○ **ROGER LANDSBERG (Qld):** Committed Landcare advocate Roger Landsberg has increased the

resilience and productivity of his

33,000ha Charters Towers property "Trafalgar" by encouraging its natural productivity.

In 1987, "Trafalgar" was carrying 4300 head of cattle through severe drought. By 1995, through planning based on stock and rainfall records, Roger was generating the same gross margin as he did in 1987 from 2900 cattle.

He introduced a wet season rotational spelling program, allowing perennial grasses to reinvigorate, set seed and new seedlings to establish. Groundcover, almost absent in 1987, is now not allowed to drop below 50 per cent.

Roger led five local Landcare groups between 1998 and 2003, managing a large riparian zone management project covering 1.2 million hectares, and projects to tackle parkinsonia and rubber vine.

○ **MEREDITH DAIRY (Vic):** Owned by Julie and Sandy Cameron, Meredith Dairy has developed a high-quality line of unique products while continually improving the sustainability of the farm.

Meredith Dairy is a vertically integrated farming enterprise, producing sheep and goat milk, processed on-farm into cheese and yoghurt. About half the 1450ha farm is cropped, and 560ha grazed by sheep and goats.

On-ground environmental work includes fencing off waterways and remnant bushland to prevent stock access, revegetation and erosion repair.

Meredith Dairy is working towards achieving carbon-neutral status by buying green power and using solar hot water. The operation aims to be using mainly bio-energy within two years.

The Camerons are educators about their methods and successes.

○ **P. AND A. HOWIE AND SONS (NT):** The Howie family have



West Australian farmers, Jenny and Rob Warburton, have been nominated for a National Landcare Award for their work in developing and implementing a sustainable farming system on their Kojonup family property.

addressed the seasonal extremes they encounter on 5600ha Maneroo Station, in the Douglas Daly area, by responding to natural cycles.

Cell grazing and feed budgets are used to maintain groundcover at a minimum of 60pc.

The tight control over grazing pressure, and the farm's ability to produce its own hay, counters the traditional dry season feed gap.

Farming is based on no-till principles, with hay and seed crops drilled into a thick layer of mulch.

This counters the high-energy, erosive rainfall of wet season storms, while the more optimal soil conditions

have boosted yields by 20 to 30pc. The environmental effect of the Howies' management has been to improve habitat for birds, insects and beneficial soil microbes and minimise run-off and erosion.

○ **PIALLIGO APPLES (ACT):** Since taking over a four-hectare Pialligo apple orchard in 1984, Jonathan and Robyn Banks have transformed the operation from a conventional chemical-based system to one where nature does much of the work.

In pushing toward organic status, achieved in 1994, the Banks sought to improve biodiversity on the block to contribute to pest management.

Docks and thistles, once common, have disappeared and the orchard is a permanent home to many nesting birds and other animals.

The block's watercourse is

managed to maximise exit water quality and for harvesting of silt and biomass for vegetable production beds.

The orchard's core has been replanted with local natives for seed production.

The couple are active educators, hosting overseas trainees and working with schools and researchers.

○ **SUE AND SEAN DELANEY (SA):**

By creating a vertically-integrated wine business based around

Sue and Sean Delaney have integrated Landcare principles through their Adelaide Hills winery, Sinclair's Gully.

Some of the physical initiatives used by the Delaneys include conservation of the property's fragile bushland, a sustainably managed biodynamic vineyard, zero waste recycling, and on-site collection and reuse of all water.



 fresh food farming

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF RURAL AUSTRALIA

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

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

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

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

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 Better. For everyone.



In Brief

Your vote counts: Want to have your say about a Landcare group or individual? The People's Choice Award is now open and awaiting your vote.

Any of the 88 finalists across the 12 other categories are eligible to take out The People's Choice Award, which is the only category open to public vote.

Anyone can vote; simply go to www.landcareonline.com and read about the work being done by the finalists in their communities across Australia.

The site allows you to search by State or by category and vote for a maximum of one finalist from each award category.

The website also enables viewers to send messages of support to their favourite or the most inspirational finalists.

Landcarers are often unsung heroes who make a big difference to their communities. Voting in the People's Choice Award lets them know their hard work is appreciated.

The award will be presented at the National Landcare Awards ceremony on June 25.

The National Landcare Awards are held every two years and recognise the outstanding achievements of those who work tirelessly to "do something practical" about protecting and repairing our environment.

Vote today for the National Landcare Awards People's Choice Award at www.landcareonline.com

Landcare and tree day:

On August 1, hundreds of Landcare volunteers will continue a decade-long tradition by contributing to National Tree Day, an initiative of environmental foundation Planet Ark. Last year more than 300,000 people, two-thirds of them children, used Tree Day to help revegetate dozens of nominated Tree Day sites.

Landcare Australia chief executive, Heather Campbell, said the hundreds of Landcare groups across Australia which had supported Planet Ark had helped to make National Tree Day an iconic environmental event.

Founder of Planet Ark, Paul Klynenko, agrees.

"The practical collaboration between Landcare Australia and Planet Ark provides opportunities for hands-on environmental involvement for individuals, families and groups.

"At a time when environmental issues are becoming publicly contested, we thank Landcare volunteers for their ongoing commitment in making this possible."

Landcare groups interested in getting involved in this year's National Tree Day can register online at the National Tree Day website at treeday.planetark.org or call the Planet Ark information centre on (1300) 88 5000.

Landcare: it's a verb

LANDCARE is becoming a verb. For the past two decades "Landcare" has usually been considered a noun, a description of a structure within which people act.

Now, as it moves into its third decade, Heather Campbell (pictured), says Landcare is also evolving into a term describing people in the act of looking after their local environment.

Ms Campbell, chief executive officer of Landcare Australia, points to the diversity of this year's National Landcare Awards as an example of just how far Landcare has moved from rural tree-plantings.

On the awards finalist list are oyster farmers, beach conservationists, people controlling cane toads, productive and sustainable farmers, turtle conservationists and rehabilitators of inner-urban lots.

In short, today's Landcare defies glib definition.

"A lot of the general public still see it as being about trees," Ms Campbell says.

"I see it as much, much broader. It's about people getting their hands dirty on local environmental issues, whatever they are.

"Because it's about people attacking whatever issues confront them in their area, Landcare is always going to have a huge diversity because



Landcare or Coastcare or Friends group is also providing a level of societal glue which in the past may have been provided by churches or other institutions."

It doesn't matter whether or not a

brate the efforts of the broadacre farming communities where Landcare had its origins, but showcase the fact community-based environmental action has many faces.

Two new awards categories appear this year: the Sustainable Farm Practices award and the Facilitator award.

"There's a feeling that we need to sharpen our focus on sustainable agriculture and our need to sustainably meet the growing demand for food in the future," Ms Campbell observes.

"There's also been a lot of press about funding of facilitators, and the facilitator award recognises that as a movement, we really appreciate the leadership role that they provide.

"It recognises that a lot of Landcare groups want to get on with things, but they often need a facilitator to

help them with grant applications, project management, those sort of roles."

Ms Campbell acknowledges the past few years have been tough for the Landcare movement, but suggests the quality of the finalists in this year's National Landcare Awards indicates that reports of Landcare's imminent death are greatly exaggerated.

"I think Landcare is starting to get its second wind. In some areas they already have that second wind, in others they are starting to develop it.

"But at the National Landcare Forum in Adelaide earlier this year, it was very positive - everyone wanted to keep this unique concept moving forward.

"And while people are getting together to tackle environmental problems in their community, it will."

The important thing is that it's not about advocacy: it's about real work. It's about people saying we have an issue, let's get together with our neighbours and tackle it

— Heather Campbell

Australia is such a diverse country, with a diverse range of issues.

"The important thing is that it's not about advocacy: it's about real work. It's about people saying we have an issue, let's get together with our neighbours and tackle it.

"In a lot of cases a community's

group uses "Landcare" to describe itself, Ms Campbell says - "it's the ethos behind it that's important."

"A lot has changed, and a purpose of these awards is to show Australia Landcare is now a lot more than planting trees."

This year's awards continue to cele-

Linking up the groups that care for the land

A NEW purpose-built National Landcare Directory is now open to help groups network and advertise events.

The new directory has been designed so it is easier for groups to use.

It will also capture the various project types that groups are working on across Australia.

Groups are encouraged to register their involvement in volunteer community environmental projects,

whether they be Landcare, Coastcare, Sustainable Farming, Bushcare, Rivercare, schools, scouts or other youth groups.

As an incentive, Landcare

Australia is offering 20 \$1000 grants to the groups which register in the new National Landcare Directory by September 6 - the first day of Landcare Week.

The winning grant recipients will be selected at random from the database and announced on the [landcareonline](http://landcareonline.com) website.

Benefits of being registered on the National Landcare Directory include:

● Volunteers can easily find you.

● Ability to promote your events, such as working bees and planting days.

● Connections with other groups can be easily made.

● Your projects can be showcased.

● Potential corporate sponsors can find groups for local community sponsorship.

● Applications for grants managed by Landcare Australia.

■ Visit www.landcareonline.com and click on the link to the directory.



Landcare Australia

The New National Landcare Directory connecting landcare and coastcare volunteers

Register your landcare/coastcare group

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

Grants available!

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

Registration only takes 5 mins to complete.



Benefits of being on the National Landcare Directory:

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

www.landcareonline.com.au

Sustainable success runs deep

THE Australian Government Innovation in sustainable farm practices award recognises innovative practices or activities to improve natural resource management and productivity outcomes.

○ **COL BEASLEY (Vic):** Mildura farmer, Col Beasley, has for 40 years been working towards a fully sustainable business that produces fresh fish and fruit, recycles waste into fertiliser, fuel and energy; protects natural waterways and



biodiversity, and reuses urban water. Col (pictured) and his sons have developed a stacked enterprise model that starts with

an "underwater feedlot" for Murray Cod in his irrigation storage dam, with nutrient-rich aquaculture water fed onto the farm to reduce fertiliser use. Farm production, in turn, produces fish feed, along with other products.

He is an active speaker at field days and forums, and is working to have TAFE students undertake training on his property.

○ **ADVANCED NUTRIENT SOLUTIONS (Qld):** In response to declining yields and soil fertility, four cane-farming families in the Mirani district have researched and developed a unique system of on-farm composting.

Since it was founded in 2006, ANS has developed the world's first sub-surface compost applicator and has also developed cane-specific composts from local feedstock.

Trials have shown considerable potential for these methods to offset

the rising cost of inputs, and to offset the carbon dioxide loss from



cane that results from conventional farming.

ANS ideas are now spreading throughout Queensland, and have led to the creation of a new curriculum within the Australian Agricultural College Corporation.

○ **BROKEN BAY OYSTERS (NSW):**

The devastation of the Hawkesbury

River oyster industry by the QX parasite in 2004 led to the formation of Broken Bay Oysters, a group dedicated to environmental stewardship and sustainable oyster production.

The group was formed by the eight growers of the original 28 which farmed in the Hawkesbury pre-2004, who re-established their businesses guided by an Environmental Management System (EMS), and a willingness to look at new methods.

The group works with government agencies to monitor water quality and be "the eyes of the river". It is also heavily involved with Landcare activities like Clean Up Australia and estuary care.

○ **GREENING AUSTRALIA CAPITAL REGION (ACT):**

Communities recognise land degradation, but have less understanding of how to treat it. That's why Greening Australia Capital Region developed the Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation Program (WOPR).

WOPR integrates conservation with production by returning native trees and shrubs to grazing systems. Paddocks greater than 10ha are direct seeded and wide vegetation belts cover around 30 per cent of the paddock. Farmers receive a stewardship payment of \$50/ha/year for a five-year period, until native vegetation is out of reach of stock.

The program has proven to be popular and practical, enabling land managers to effectively address climate change, biodiversity losses, paddock tree decline, salinity and other land degradation problems.

○ **MINGENEW-IRWIN GROUP (WA):** A not-for-profit, farmer-owned and -driven organisation committed to economic and



environmentally sustainable agriculture, Mingeneew-Irwin Group was formed in the mid-1990s.

Almost 95 per cent of farmers in the Mingeneew Shire are members of the group, which embraces 320,000 hectares of WA's central Northern Agricultural Region.

A landmark achievement has been the MIG Healthy Farms program, which uses an Environmental Management System (EMS) to help farmers track progress with issues like wind erosion, salinity, water erosion, biodiversity decline, chemical contamination of soil and water, and herbicide resistance.

Recognised as being very farmer-friendly, the MIG EMS has helped farmers pull in about \$1.4 million to aid on-farm environmental works.

○ **NORTHERN TERRITORY HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION:**

A growing number of first-generation or inexperienced horticulturalists in the north prompted the Northern Territory Horticultural Association to put

together a program to help them manage their natural resources. The Best Practice for Sustainable Land Use in the NT was introduced in 2005, and

provided a toolkit that producers, regardless of experience, could use to implement sustainable practices using a whole-of-property approach. The toolkit encourages producers to undertake self-assessment at their own pace, providing a pathway to accredited environmental management systems (EMS). Self-assessment ensures that "new farmers" start out as proactive rather than reactive land managers.



Cowell's BST Oyster Supplies, South Australia, has been nominated for a National Landcare Award for its world-renowned innovative oyster farming system.

○ **MATTHEW PITT (Tas):** Ouse farmer, Matthew Pitt, has shifted his property onto a more sustainable footing while being a leader in Southern Tasmania's Landcare movement.

With his family, Matthew

(pictured) has made many changes to his 245ha farm, "Cluny", including riparian fencing, shelter belts, perennial grass species trials and under pivot plantings for integrated pest management.

Since 2007 he has changed his grazing management to encourage perennial species, which has led to dramatic improvements in groundcover, stocking rates and biodiversity.

His farm is a place of constant



experimentation, and as chairman of the Upper Derwent Valley Landcare Group, he played a pivotal role in establishing a catchment management plan.

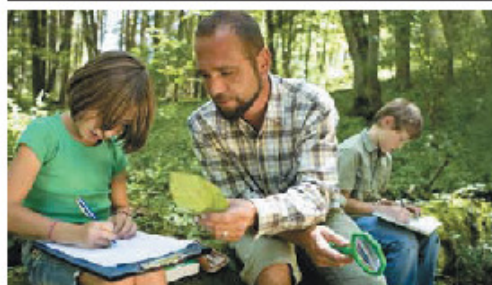
○ **BST OYSTERS (SA):** After recognising deficiencies in the way oysters were farmed, BST Oysters at Cowell devised a system now recognised worldwide as best practice for the industry.

The BST Adjustable Longline Oyster Farming System was developed, produced and commercialised by three local oyster growers to suit the rough and weedy conditions in Franklin Harbour.

Designed to protect and preserve the fragile marine and coastal environments, the system also dramatically enhances oyster growth and quality.

Oysters can reach market size in half the time they take with other systems.

Construction of the system is versatile, cheaper and less labour-intensive than traditional methods, with lower maintenance costs and higher yields.



Landcare Australia is encouraging everyone to become a citizen scientist during Landcare Week.

Every Australian can participate in this Landcare Week activity. Simply register with ClimateWatch and you can monitor, collect and record data that will help shape the country's scientific response to climate change.

Our scientists need your data, become a Landcare ClimateWatcher today and join landcare groups celebrate Landcare Week.



Landcare Week

6th - 13th September 2010
everyone, everywhere, landcare

Register online to participate in a citizen science program today
www.landcareonline.com



National Landcare Awards

Indigenous:

□ Frank Young, for 20 years, has fostered the integration of traditional knowledge with contemporary management to produce highly successful Landcare and natural resource management outcomes in the APY Lands of the Anangu people in northern South Australia.

□ Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation: preserves and enhances the environment through projects that allow indigenous people to develop their skills and promote cross-cultural understanding.

□ South Coast natural resource management group: through its "Restoring Connections" initiative, is helping the indigenous people of south-west WA re-connect with their heritage, and restore and protect areas of cultural significance.



□ Central Land Council Tjuwanpa Rangers Program (above): a community ranger group actively dealing with issues such as weeds, feral animals, threatened species, and fire management in the lands of the Western Aranda people, west of Alice Springs.

□ Barapa Barapa Indigenous Crew: maintaining the Barapa Barapa community's connections along Victoria's Loddon River by identifying cultural heritage sites and carrying out detailed natural resource assessments.

□ Eric Bell: a Ngunnawal nation elder who is helping his community and the environment through his leadership on a range of local development and government bodies.

□ The Traditional Knowledge Recording Project: covering all Queensland, the project is strengthening understanding of traditional indigenous knowledge and its role in natural resource management.

□ Greening Australia (Tas): with the Weetapoono and the Indigenous Land Corporation, is helping young indigenous Australians understand the value of traditional knowledge for future management.

Champions of the land up for

Urban finalists

□ Bulimba Creek Catchment Co-ordinating Committee (Qld): raising awareness and understanding of natural resource issues through tours, open days and a community nursery, in a program embracing 43 natural resource management groups.



□ Craft ACT (above): highlighting the environmental and historical importance of landscape through the Gudgenby Ready-Cut Cottage Residency artist-in-residence program.

□ Eyre Bio-Regional Permaculture Group (SA): creating greater awareness and understanding of sustainable gardening practices by demonstrating permaculture principles in urban and peri-urban areas.

□ Forbes Urban Landcare Group (NSW): working with Lachlan River communities on revegetation, wildlife corridors, high water tables, salinity and protection of remnant vegetation.

□ Garden for Wildlife (NT): encouraging volunteers to improve and preserve native habitat on town blocks around Alice Springs, and providing the means for block owners to pool their resources and learning.

□ Geographe Catchment Council (WA): successfully encouraged the community to plant nearly 10,000 habitat trees and more than 12,000 understory shrubs for the Western Ringtail Possum.

□ Rosny and Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group (Tas): looking after a

prominent stretch of coastal bushland on Hobart's eastern shores since 1993, during which time, it has enlisted support from several community and local government groups.

□ Friends of Westgate Park (Vic): a dedicated group of volunteers has invested more than 13,000 hours transforming 40-hectare Westgate Park, on the fringes of Melbourne's CBD, from an inner city wasteland to one of Melbourne's biodiversity gems.

Coastcare:

□ The Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group and the Point Danger Committee of Management: protecting the Middle Island and Portland penguin colonies against fox predation using Maremma guard dogs.

□ Friends of Bangan: dedicated locals who have worked to protect the dunes and headlands of Bangan Beach, on Sydney's northern beaches, for more than 30 years.

□ Darwin City Council: in partnership with the Larrakia people, restoring the dunes of Mindil Beach and preserving the area's cultural heritage.

□ Tangaroo Blue Ocean Care Society: engaging the wider community in preserving large stretches of coastline in northern Australia and New Zealand through the Far North Queensland Marine Debris Project.

□ EcoAction Group: preserving the natural environment of Pennington Bay, Kangaroo Island, by protecting natural vegetation in high traffic areas.

□ Birds Tasmania: promoting the sustainable use of Tasmania's popular beaches and Ramsar wetlands by monitoring bird populations and informing the public.

□ Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare: working to rehabilitate and



The Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group has been nominated for using Maremma guard dogs to protect penguin colonies against fox predation.

protect south-west WA's North Beach and Waterman's fragile coast zone, and raising awareness of the need to protect WA's coastline.

Young Landcarer

□ Melanie Gent, 25 (Tas): has implemented several Landcare projects across Tasmania and as a team leader with Green Corps, has shown by example the opportunities for young people to become involved with natural resource management.

□ Kayla Groombridge (below), 16 (Vic): mobilised her community and natural



resource management organisations to tackle a range of environmental problems on the lower Tarna River, from weed infestation to rubbish dumping.

□ Nicholas Lever, 19 (ACT): with like-minded students, developed the Sustainable Careers Expo to allow a range of businesses to showcase their business models and initiatives to students.

□ Erin Rowe, 27 (NSW): providing outstanding leadership to Green Corps teams, changing the lives of some participants, and with them forming the Hawkesbury Young Landcare Group.

□ Linda Vernon, 28 (WA): an active and pivotal member of the Landcare movement in the central wheatbelt, where she has generated extensive funding and managed projects across 13 shires.

Local Government:

□ ACT Sustainable Schools Initiative (right): helping 111 of the 127 schools in the ACT reduce their ecological footprint, enhance biodiversity and provide education on sustainability.

□ The Murray Darling Association: created the "The Living River Living Murray" curriculum to help students understand the specific environmental issues of the Murray River.

□ Darwin City Council: with the Larrakia people, developed the "Zero Toads Project", setting up cane toad trap lines and running "toad busts" to control a key environmental threat.

□ Brisbane City Council: partnering with local catchment groups through the Creek Catchment Ranger program to support grass-roots protection of local catchments.

□ Bass Coast Shire Council: has embraced 11 Landcare groups involving more than 1000 families, and incorporated Landcare principles into council planning, to help manage one of the most-visited stretches of coastline in Victoria.

□ Huon Valley Council: celebrating a long history of supporting Landcare, Bushcare, Rivercare and Coastcare groups in the Huon Valley, and of responding to development pressures by improving stakeholder communication and implementing sustainable land management practices.



proud Landcare Australia partners

LEIGHTON

Landcare Australia is a uniquely Australian partnership between the community, government and business to 'do something practical' about protecting and repairing our environment. Leighton Holdings, Australia's largest project development and contracting group, has proudly supported Landcare Australia since 1997, supporting projects focused on water quality in Sydney harbour, tackling dry land salinity and training of indigenous environmental inspectors.

Our partnerships with Landcare Australia provides practical support to local communities tackling pressing environmental challenges. Leighton is proud to be assisting Landcare Australia in tackling land degradation and preserving Australia's infrastructure. www.leighton.com.au

June 24

National Landcare Awards



Landcare's national gongs

Community group:

□ **Glenlyon Dam Fish Restocking Group Inc. (Qld)**: has been restocking the Dumaresq River with 10,000 Murray Cod fingerlings a year since 1986.

□ **Blinman Parachina Pest Plant Control Group (SA)**: checking the spread of the invasive weeds, cleander and opuntia, across 400 square kilometres of the Flinders Ranges.

□ **Farrer Ridge Parkcare Group (ACT)**: preserving the environmental integrity of Farrer Hill, a popular Canberra walking destination, while supporting its use as a recreational and education area.

□ **Southern New England Landcare (NSW)**: for 15 years, creating and managing innovative programs for repairing land in northern NSW, including major projects on developing engineered woodlands, best management practices for landholders, and mistletoe control.

□ **Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association (NT)**: took on the task of surveying 2500 kilometres of remote Georgina River watercourse, and then planned and executed the strategic control of the invasive plant, perfinsonia.

□ **Little Swanport Catchment Management Plan Implementation Committee (Tas)**: undertakes a wide range of work, including the fencing of remnant vegetation and saltmarsh in southern Tasmania, and helping other agencies run trials and projects.

□ **Birchip Landcare Group (Vic)**: has built on a community project started 15 years ago to create the Birchip Urban Stormwater Treatment Project, which treats stormwater runoff through a system of dams, wetlands and ponds and supplies excess to sporting clubs.

□ **The Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WA)**: dedicated to improving water quality in Wilson Inlet by minimising nutrient runoff and containing salinity on surrounding farmland.



Western Australia's Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee has been nominated for Landcare's national community award for its dedication to improving water quality.

Landcare GF Facilitator

□ **Gerry Butler (SA)**: contributing to Landcare for 20 years, helping landholders in the Torrens Valley implement projects while holding a number of volunteer positions on industry and community organisations.

□ **Chris Cumming (right) (NSW)**: restoring the vitality and focus of the Holbrook Landcare Group, which, after being one the country's leading groups, was close to folding when she took the chief executive officer's position in 2008.

□ **Heather Drendel (Vic)**: building healthy and functioning rural communities in the Southern Mallee, where for seven years she has built trust and respect through her facilitator's role and as a member of the community.

□ **John David Nicholas (Qld)**:



working hard to improve landholder awareness of sustainable land management practices in the Upper Burdekin Rangelands through

field days, forums, training and projects.

□ **Linda Vernon (WA)**: laid the foundations for natural resource management in WA's central wheatbelt, by helping hundreds of landholders manage for better economic and environmental results.

□ **Joye Maddison (NT)**: more than three decades of involvement with Landcare, has been central to several important pest eradication and conservation initiatives and is providing leadership for environmental projects in the Lower Daly.

□ **Maria Weeding (Tas)**: a farmer and a strong advocate for sustainable farming who understands the challenges faced by the farming community, and who works hard to deliver necessary information on issues like irrigation during drought.

Natural resource management region:

□ **ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council**: has built strong partnerships with the ACT Landcare community, and is reviewing ways to strengthen collaboration between natural resource management groups.

□ **Desert Channels Queensland NRM Group**: prides itself on stability and innovation, and its capacity to develop flexible, productive partnerships across a dispersed and diverse region.

□ **Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association (Vic)**: aims to

develop far-reaching landscape planning and programs that work towards a vision for a 'dynamic and healthy region supported by an active and committed community'.

□ **Wheatbelt NRM (WA)**: supports the Avon River Basin community in its quest for sustainable agricultural land management, helped by strong networks and a commitment to integrating community and environment outcomes.

□ **Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NSW)**: bringing community engagement to natural resource management, particularly through Landcare groups in

seven sub-catchments.

□ **North East Catchment Management Authority (Vic)**: co-ordinating and supporting Landcare networks in a region with the highest rate of Landcare membership among farmers in Victoria, helping members to build the skills necessary to deliver on-ground results.

□ **NRM North (above) (Tas)**: supporting Landcare and community groups



through planning for existing groups, particularly non-agricultural groups, to help them develop sustainable programs.

Education:

□ **Badger Creek Primary School (Vic)**: committed to Landcare since replanting in the wake of a 2002 mini-tornado. Landcare has been built into the school curriculum since 2008, resulting in significant improvements to the school grounds.

□ **Baldviss Primary School (WA)**: from humble beginnings in annual revegetation plantings, has created the Baldviss Children's Forest and Environmental Study Centre in an ongoing program that engages 3000 children each year.

□ **Darwin High School**: initiated the "Students for Conservation" community initiative, helping students learn about weed management, water quality, marine debris and other environmental challenges in the city.

□ **Deloraine High School Landcare Group (Tas)**: enhancing biodiversity within the Meander Valley, planting 9000 trees and shrubs in the past two years, as part of a philosophy of engaging the school with the wider community.

□ **Gatton State Primary School (Qld)**: students are part of a community initiative involving 2600 people to enhance key locations in the community, and the environmental aspects of their own school.



□ **Grange Primary School, Year 5 (above) (SA)**: raising awareness of the impacts of stormwater pollution on Adelaide's coastline with an original film that involved community members and has changed local behaviour.

□ **Lanyon High School (ACT)**: raising awareness and understanding of natural resource management within the school and local community, including hands-on planting of trees, revegetation and maintaining a greenhouse.

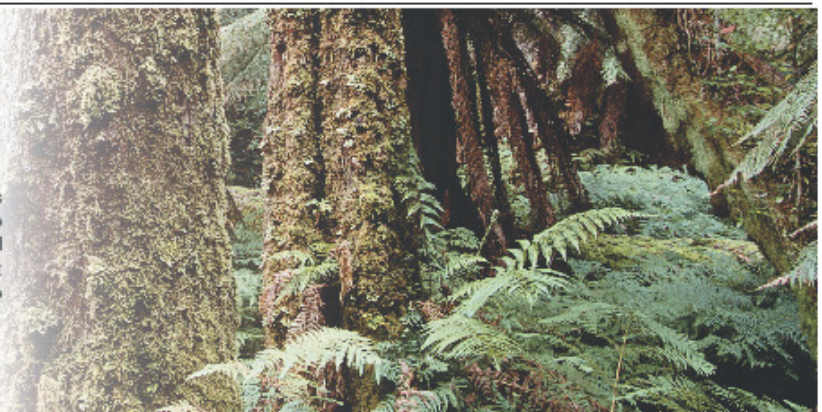
□ **Orara Valley Learning Community (NSW)**: brought seven small schools together to address environmental issues along the Orara River and Karangi Creek, particularly the removal of invasive camphor laurel, in a benchmark program.

TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation

Proud Supporters of Landcare Australia

Working in partnership with Landcare Australia reinforces our commitment to supporting Landcare groups that are protecting and repairing natural resources at the local level with a focus on climate change. It has also the added benefit of giving our staff the opportunity to be involved in Landcare Australia's important work in the community.

www.toshiba.com.au



In Brief

Holden habitats: Holden dealers have combined to support a series of important Landcare environmental repair projects across Australia.

The dealers, from South Australia, Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Western Australia, will support not-for-profit environmental organisation Landcare Australia to restore natural habitats in local communities.

Known as Holden Habitats, the project involves dealers from five States who are supporting restorations, weed control and revegetation programs, foreshore vegetation, bushland recovery, habitat restoration for native species and water purifying floating islands.

Holden customers will also now have the opportunity to make a donation to Landcare as part of their servicing charge.

Holden Habitats participants are:

- City Holden, Adelaide – Torrens Lake Floating Islands;
- Preston Motors Holden Group, Melbourne – Five Mile Creek Natural Habitat Enhancement;
- Metro Motors Holden, Bennett Brook Reserve – Melville Foreshore Habitat Restoration, Canning River;
- Bartons Holden Bayside, Brisbane – Bulimba Creek Catchment Co-ordinating Committee, Bulimba and Bayside Creeks Catchment Group;
- Heartland Holden Motor Group, Sydney – Popes Creek Rehabilitation.

eTree's green business is growing

COMPUTERSHARE recently announced its eTree environmental incentive program has raised more than \$2 million for Landcare Australia since its launch in 2004.

eTree (www.ETree.com.au) lets member companies and their shareholders reduce costs and waste by off-setting printed investor information, such as statements, by opting for electronic delivery.

For each registration, a donation of

up to \$2 is made to Landcare Australia on the shareholder's behalf.

"Raising \$2 million is a fantastic achievement," said ComputerShare's chief executive officer, Stuart Crosby.

"To see the program grow from 14 foundation members in 2004 to over 101 members today is extremely satisfying.

"Its role in actively driving shareholders towards electronic communications and reducing paper

consumption has been significant."

Landcare Australia's chief executive officer, Heather Campbell, said the eTree partnership had provided valuable resources for environmental restoration projects across Australia.

"eTree provides regular and essential funding for the core purchasing requirements of the projects, such as for seeds and seedlings or planting equipment.

"When this is combined with volunteer labour and expertise from the

Landcare community volunteer groups, large scale planting projects are made possible year after year."

eTree is open to all Australian listed companies, regardless of their registry service provider.

eTree's international acknowledgements include the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Merit Award in 2007 and the Best Specific Environmental Initiative at the 2005 United Nations World Environment Day Awards.

Students learn out in the garden

GARDENS have sprung up in schools, kindergartens and communities across the country since 2008 thanks to the School Garden Grants provided by Coles through Junior Landcare.

Coles gives annual grants of up to \$1000 to help schools and youth groups create gardens in their grounds or community, such as bush tucker gardens, waterwise gardens or veggie gardens.

These programs encourage students to learn about the environment through "outdoor learning" and interaction in developing their own school gardens.

This year Coles will embark on a special Indigenous gardens project with Junior Landcare.

This project will help to establish bush tucker and veggie gardens in 30 Indigenous preschools across NSW.

The bush tucker garden programs



aim to assist Indigenous students and communities through developing veggie gardens to learn about the importance of nutrition and fruit and

vegetables in leading a healthy lifestyle. Students from Peregian Beach Community College are pictured in their kitchen garden.

Grants go to sustainability

THE Woolworths Sustainable Farming Program, a collaboration between Landcare Australia and Woolworths' Backing our Farmers campaign, has now allocated grants of \$5000 or \$10,000 to nearly 100 Landcare projects.

"In many cases, these grants give farmers the chance to carry out highly innovative projects that would have been otherwise impossible," said Dr Shane Norrish, Partnerships Director with Landcare Australia.

The Woolworths Sustainable Farming Grants help fast-track some of the ideas farmers and other regional organisations are considering, but without the resources to get the projects moving.

Last year the grants were allocated from nearly \$4.7 million donated by Australian shoppers.

■ Visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Spree's support helps clean up



10¢ towards Junior Landcare

For every natural bag you purchase, Coles donates 10¢ to Junior Landcare to fund the development of Bush Tucker gardens, maintaining the traditions of Indigenous Australians.



For more information: www.juniorlandcare.com/coles

TL179105

THE Spree laundry detergent brand has announced a new partnership with Landcare Australia under which Spree owners Colgate Palmolive will support a number of Landcare's land-based projects, including a regeneration project in the Murray-Darling Basin in NSW.

With additional support from Spree, Landcare Australia is helping the Mid Lachlan Landcare community plant 30,000 native plants which will support the community's aim of planting 1.5 million trees in the next 30 years.

Heather Campbell, chief executive officer of Landcare Australia, said Spree's support would make a valuable contri-

but ion to the Landcare effort.

"The impact on communities all over Australia will have lasting effects that will be visible for generations to come," Ms Campbell said.

Although most laundry detergent manufacturers look to minimise their products' impact on the environment, Colgate Palmolive is aiming for a more proactive approach with its Spree support of Landcare Australia.

The surfactants in Spree are readily biodegradable and because Spree contains no



added phosphorus, it has less impact on the environment.

In addition, every Spree carton contains recycled material and is fully recyclable.

■ For more information on the Spree Landcare Australia partnership, visit www.spree laundry.com.au



Landcare for the future

Grants for schools and youth groups, challenges, events and resources

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