

Media Release

Sponsor a Young Landcarer to attend the National Conference and Awards

11 August: Without young people getting involved, the future of Landcare may be at risk. That's why Landcare Australia has teamed up with Intrepid Landcare to offer a number of scholarships valued at \$1,500 each, to support at least one future Landcarer – aged 18-35 – from every state and territory to attend this year's National Landcare Conference and Awards.

Taking place in Melbourne from 21 to 23 September, the three-day event gives the Landcare community an opportunity to engage in knowledge-sharing discussions, meet with Landcare leaders, scientists and educators, and learn about the latest technological innovations that are leading the way for the future of Landcare.

Through the generous donations of supporters, Landcare Australia and Intrepid Landcare are aiming to offer eight scholarships to deserving young Australians. Each scholarship will cover the costs of accommodation, travel, and registration fees, and the recipients of the scholarships will be tasked with capturing ideas and coming up with plans for the future that they will then share with a national audience after the conference.

Tessa Jakszewicz, Landcare Australia CEO, says the scholarship is important for the future of Landcare.

"We always need fresh ideas and perspectives at the National Landcare Conference, and what better way than to have more young people attending? The conference this year will be full of new information, inspirational stories and knowledge sharing, and includes field trips and the opportunity to network with peers from all over the country."

Megan Rowlett, co-founder of Intrepid Landcare and previous National Landcare Award winner, says being sponsored was the only way she would have been able to attend Landcare conferences when she first started going.

"I was blown away by the passion of the people, the diversity of knowledge, and range of projects that fell under the 'Landcare' banner that were addressing some of Australia's most challenging environmental issues. It really gave me a sense that I was part of something bigger, and that there was a much bigger network for me to tap into for support, knowledge and ideas," Megan says.

Over the decades, the Landcare community has dealt with many different environmental issues, including restoring ecosystems, creating new sustainable land management practices in agriculture, helping endangered wildlife, and removing introduced weeds and pests.

Clearly, Landcaring is important for the future of Australia, so it's vital to include young people in these significant Landcare events, giving them the opportunity to be heard and be part of the conversation as the future decision-makers and stewards of Landcare.

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To learn more and donate to the scholarship fund, visit chuffed.org/project/sponsor-a-future-landcarer.

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About Landcare Australia

Landcare Australia Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation, leading the promotion of and providing financial support to the Landcare natural resource management programme in Australia; aligning the practice of environmental management with land productivity, and devolving governance and management to local communities.

Landcare Australia works collaboratively with federal, state and local governments, corporate partners and sponsors, and individuals, to deliver hundreds of projects annually through the volunteer efforts of local community groups, indigenous groups, and the more than 5,400 Landcare and Coastcare groups across Australia.

www.landcareaustralia.org.au