

MEDIA RELEASE

Finalists Announced for the Bob Hawke Landcare Award

\$50,000 award to be presented at the National Landcare Awards next month

25 August 2016: A New South Wales beef farmer, a Queensland conservationist, farmer and teacher, and a founder of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture are all in the running for this year's Bob Hawke Landcare Award, which will be presented at the 2016 National Landcare Awards in Melbourne next month.

The award acknowledges an individual who has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to caring for the land; champions better practices; and gives their time to share knowledge with others so that they too can prosper. Nominations were sought from individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to natural resource management and sustainable agriculture through being a Landcare champion, a remarkable leader and a sustainable farm practice innovator.

The \$50,000 prize package will be used to further develop the winner's knowledge and skills in sustainable land management practices and Landcare.

Tessa Jakszewicz, Landcare Australia CEO, acknowledged the significance of the Bob Hawke Landcare Award and what it means to the Landcare community.

"The Bob Hawke Landcare Award is such an important award as it truly showcases the innovation in the Landcaring community. It provides the winner with a significant investment to allow them to further advance their sustainable land management practices and share their innovative thinking with others," Tessa said. "The nominees in this category are so inspiring to us all and it's a wonderful way to celebrate their achievements."

The 2016 Bob Hawke Landcare Award Finalists:

Gwendolyn Adams, Tasmania

For over 40 years Gwendolyn has run her family farm 'Leighlands', a 160-hectare property in Perth, Tasmania. She took Leighlands over at a period when the farm was degraded and uneconomic. She sought advice from all available sources and successfully rebuilt the business on her property using strong environmental principles. The farm is now a successful cattle and sheep farm. Her family uses rotational grazing to ensure their paddocks are not over-grazed; in addition, they aim to plant 1,000 trees every year. Gwendolyn is a champion in her community and thought of as a mentor and role model for women in agriculture. She is closely associated with schools and children, encouraging them to be involved practically, with hands-on participation in Landcaring, learning, and projects. She also hosts Field Days to demonstrate the environmental work that has been done on her property, which has contributed to the overall turnaround.

Stephen Burgess, Queensland

Stephen has run Wurraglen Nature Refuge in Dagon, Queensland for nearly 20 years. He has developed the property which combines sustainable market farming, light grazing, and management of a nature refuge. Stephen has supported the Landcare ethos since his teenage bushwalking days, and then went on to a university degree in environmental studies. His love of bushwalking around the country instilled a strong commitment to caring for the land and encouraging others to share these values. Stephen is a long-time member of Gympie and District Landcare and a former high school teacher, where he ran a weekly Landcare awareness project with his students. He's currently a part-time project officer at the Mary River Catchment Resource Centre and coordinator of the community Waterwatch program. Previously working in Western Australia with the Department of Agriculture, he developed a program called "NPDecide" which was widely adopted throughout the WA Wheatbelt, improving the efficiency of fertilizer use, reduced leaching losses, and introducing explicit consideration of soil organic nitrogen pools into fertilizer decisions.

Glenn Morris, New South Wales

Glenn Morris is General Manager of Figtrees Organic Farms, producers and marketers of award-winning organic beef from the properties 'Wilton Park' at Grafton and 'Billabong' at Inverell, in New South Wales. Glenn demonstrates every aspect of the Landcare ethic through his work on farm and in the community. Glenn has spent over two decades observing, studying, and thoughtfully managing the diverse ecosystems in his care, and has regenerated two degraded properties using sustainable land management practices. These properties are now prime examples of responsibly managed enterprises, generating high quality produce with improved natural resource bases. Glenn has shared his knowledge and encouraged others to adopt sustainable land management practices. He has hosted many local primary and high school groups and field days where hundreds of property owners and workers have seen firsthand the results of adopting farm practices that enhance the natural ecosystems. In Glenn's work he feels he is representing the majority of farmers who are working diligently on their farms to improve them for future generations.

The National Landcare Awards are part of this year's three-day National Landcare Conference, taking place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 21 to 23 September. The conference gives the Landcare community an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and share knowledge. Those interested in attending can register at nationallandcareconference.org.au. For National Landcare Awards and Conference updates in real-time, follow @LandcareAust on Twitter, like Landcare Australia on Facebook, and tag #landcareconf16.

The Bob Hawke Landcare Award is being delivered by Landcare Australia for the Australian Government. The National Landcare Awards are being delivered by Landcare Australia in partnership with the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the Victorian Government, and are sponsored by Fairfax Media, Indigenous Land Corporation, and ManpowerGroup Australia.

2016
BOB HAWKE
LANDCARE AWARD

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Administered by Landcare
Australia Ltd, through funding
from the Australian Government

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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 Landcare 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