

# Celebrate Landcare at this year's conference

**T**HIS year's National Landcare Conference and Awards in Melbourne is merely weeks away, from September 21 to 23, and organisers say they are aiming to pull off the most engaging one yet!

Landcare Australia CEO Tessa Jakszewicz is excited to be part of this significant biennial event in the Landcare calendar.

"Every two years, contributions from the Landcare community have led to broader discussion topics that are more engaging and thought-provoking than previous National Landcare Conferences," Tessa said.

"We've made sure this year we have more diverse representation across the many groups and networks that make up the community so there's something on offer for everyone, no matter what their involvement is in Landcare."

Over three days, the National Landcare Conference will offer more than 30 presentations and panel discussions, delivered by 50 respected speakers, on subject matter that aligns with the four streams: Climate Impact and Responses; Community Engagement; Landscape Challenges and Responses; and Collaboration and Innovation.

At the National Landcare Awards gala dinner on Thursday, September 22, 69 state and territory award finalists from around the country will be waiting with bated breath to see who takes home nine awards, including the coveted People's Choice Award.

The awards gala evening also includes the presentation of the prestigious Bob Hawke Landcare Award, which 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



Landcarers out in the field during the 2014 National Landcare Conference and Awards.

too can prosper. The award recipient will be presented with a prize package to the value of \$50,000 to further develop their knowledge and skills in sustainable land management and Landcare.

With well-known TV host and presenter Costa Georgiadis facilitating as master of ceremonies over the three-day event, the conference promises to deliver light-hearted engagement as well as educational insight into topical issues impacting Landcarers,

including rehabilitation of soil erosion; the challenges of climate change; reversing reptile decline; river care; landscape restoration; and grazing best management practices.

Conference delegates will also hear about lessons learned from government initiatives such as 20 Million Trees projects, biosecurity, and opportunities for carbon sequestration, while also hearing from peers about their successes and failures.

This year marks 30 years of Landcare in Victoria. On hand to celebrate this momentous occasion will be representatives of the Victorian government who will honour the achievements of forward-thinking pioneers who in 1986 laid the foundations that inspired the national Landcare movement.

• To vote for the People's Choice Award or to register for the conference and find more information, visit [nationallandcareconference.org.au](http://nationallandcareconference.org.au).



Costa Georgiadis will MC the conference.

## Costa takes centre stage

**C**OSTA Georgiadis will be at the helm of the National Landcare Conference and Awards this year as its Master of Ceremonies, ensuring a compelling event and providing what's sure to be entertaining dialogue between presentations and award speeches.

His passion for both people and plants is what led him down his career path.

"My personal cause is to be able to inspire people to feel awe in nature, and to push themselves to learn a little bit more about the interconnected environment that we live in," Costa told *Landcare in Focus*.

Host of the popular ABC television program *Gardening Australia* and a Sydney native, the self-described landscape architect and educator is popular among community groups.

"Being able to present at something like the Landcare awards is special to me because I get to meet people face-to-face, hear about their commitment and effort, and celebrate their role in the big picture. It's all about bringing people together," he said.

# 2016 National Landcare Conference

Collaborative Communities - Landcare in Action  
**REGISTER NOW**

21 - 23 September 2016  
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre  
[www.nationallandcareconference.org.au](http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au)

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## 2016 National Landcare Awards and Conference Special Edition

www.nationallandcareconference.org.au

# Making the right land and water investments

Comment by LUKE HARTSUYKER,  
Minister Assisting the Deputy  
Prime Minister

**W**E CAN only improve the nation's agricultural productivity and production if the future of our precious natural resource base is assured.

That's why our farmers are some of Australia's best environmental stewards.

They understand better than anyone the importance of managing our natural resources with long-term vision.

And they have the greatest incentive of all to manage their land and water resources sustainably—the opportunity to pass that land on to the next generation so that they too may prosper.

It is little wonder, then, that more than three quarters of farmers identify with Landcare. That is why the Australian government remains a committed supporter of Landcare.

And that is why the government has provided \$1 billion to the National Landcare Programme to address national and local challenges of improving the condition of Australia's natural resources.

Of this, about \$279 million was made available for agriculture-specific projects.

Funding for the National Landcare Programme runs to June 30, 2018.

So it's an exciting time for Landcarers as we set out to develop the framework for a future programme alongside stakeholders from across the nation.

The next iteration of the programme is already in the early stages of policy and programme design.

The future programme design will be informed by a review and consultation, culminating, of course, in formal consideration by the Australian government as part of its future budget processes.

I am very much looking forward to working with committed Landcarers like you to ensure that the right balance is delivered.

Governments can't make informed decisions without input from you and from other stakeholders involved in the sector.

I'd encourage you to get in contact with me through my office so together we can prioritise what needs to be done.

All government funding, of course, is dependent on strong financial management in every sector of the economy. As a nation, we must rein in spending and ensure we make the right investments in the right programmes to support our future.

The National Landcare Programme—jointly delivered by the Agriculture and Environment portfolios—has a proven track record of delivering the right outcomes.

The Australian government's focus on ensuring our investment, which is making a tangible difference on the ground, will continue.

For example, the Australian government recently announced the successful grantees under the National Landcare Programme – Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants Round 2015-16.

Under this very popular programme 640 eligible applications were received, each vying for part of the \$3.8 million of funding.

Of these, 103 projects have been successful in obtaining funding.

These projects focus on delivering practical outcomes that are making a real difference on the ground by building local knowledge and skills to improve productivity and drive better environmental outcomes.

It's another example of the Australian government's commitment to ensuring that our investment makes a tangible difference on the ground.

Our investments in Landcare speak to the strength of the modern movement; that strength is founded on the commitment and dedication of Landcarers like you.

I look forward to working with you to build on that strength into the future.



Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, Luke Hartsuyker.

## Bob Hawke award finalists announced

**T**HREE finalists for the Bob Hawke Landcare Award (formerly McKell Medal) have been announced in the lead-up to the National Landcare Awards, to be held on September 22.

The award includes prize money of \$50,000 to develop knowledge and skills in sustainable land management, and rewards a Landcarer who is leading by example and making a difference.

The three finalists are:

- **Gwendolyn Adams**, founder of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, a highly thought of mentor and role model for women in agriculture.
- **Stephen Burgess**, champion of the Landcare ethic over the past 20 years in Queensland, developing his property and combining sustainable market farming, light grazing, and managing a nature refuge.
- **Glenn Morris**, regenerated two degraded properties in NSW using sustainable land management practices. The properties now yield high quality produce, an example of successful eco-agriculture.

## Story submissions welcome

WE seek your submissions of stories or ideas from across the Landcare network discussing your successes and learning opportunities.

All article submissions must adhere to the following guidelines and the deadlines below and must include:

- One article of between 100-500 words saved as a Microsoft Word or PDF document.
- One to three high resolution images that clearly illustrate the accompanying article (must be at least 1.5MB and 300dpi).
- Contact information or web link for readers seeking more information about your story.

**November 2016 Edition:** Conference wrap and Our Year in Review – Saving our environment with many small steps

**Contribution deadline:**

October 7, 2016

**Publication date:** November 17, 2016.

Send your contribution to [lif@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:lif@landcareaustralia.com.au)



Tessa Jakszewicz

## Working together to celebrate Landcare's successes

By TESSA JAKSZEWICZ,  
CEO, Landcare Australia

**T**HE Landcare Australia team is hard at work preparing for the biennial National Landcare Conference and Awards that are coming up shortly, from September 21 to 23.

Make sure you don't miss out on this year's conference, which promises

to be an event full of ideas, inspiration and knowledge sharing, based on the theme "Collaborative Communities – Landcare in Action".

Hurry and register before it's too late, as tickets are selling fast! You can register and find out more about the programme via the conference website [nationallandcareconference.org.au](http://nationallandcareconference.org.au).

We're very excited to be working with the Victorian Government, Australian Government's National

Landcare Programme, NRM Regions Australia and the National Landcare Network to bring the community together again to share achievements, gain important knowledge, and network with peers all across the country.

Teamwork is the best way to get things done and ensure a great event for all in the Landcare community, so we are immensely grateful for the assistance of our collaborators in this event, through sponsorship

and partnership. Together we can achieve anything.

This is a particularly noteworthy year, as Victoria is celebrating 30 years of Landcare, so it seems fitting to return to Melbourne, where there are a diverse range of field trips and presentations for attendees to enjoy.

The 2016 conference honours and celebrates Victoria's important milestone, and I very much look forward to seeing you there.

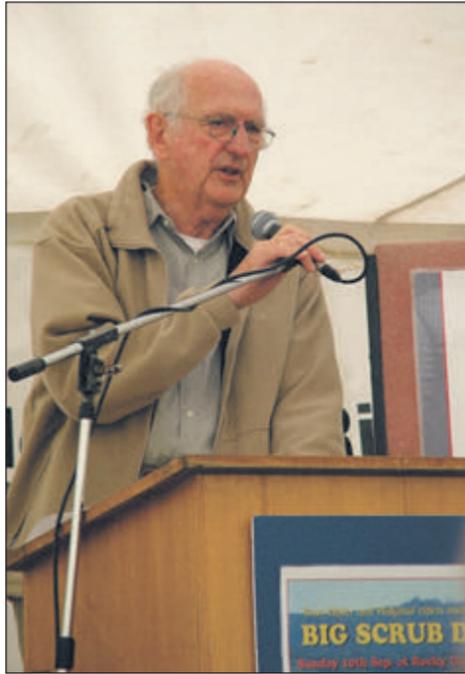


# Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award

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Wendy Rainbird, ACT.



Dr Tony Parkes, NSW.



Peter Latz, NT.



Phil Moran, QLD.



Lewis Westbook, SA.



Amanda Cole, TAS.



David McAninly, SA.



Rhonda Williams, WA.

## Wendy Rainbird, ACT

For over 24 years Wendy has been a leading member of the community dedicated to the natural local environment. Since the 1990s, she has been involved in Landcare and been the convener of Farrer Ridge ParkCare Group – 12 of those years she has also been a committed water-watcher. Wendy has used her enthusiasm and passion for the local natural environment to make fundamental change to the landscape of Farrer Ridge over. It's also this enthusiasm that has also led her to play a significant role in educating schools and local community groups about the importance of local flora, fauna, ecology and Landcare. In addition, Wendy is 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.

## Dr Tony Parkes, NSW

Dr Tony Parkes' dedication to restoring critically endangered lowland rainforest started 25 years ago when he moved to a degraded 42-hectare former dairy farm near Bangalow in north-east NSW. The farm was once part of the Big Scrub, the largest area of lowland subtropical rainforest in Australia. More than 99 per cent of the Big Scrub has been cleared, leaving 60 significant remnants with incredibly rich and endangered biodiversity.

Tony Parkes and his team have restored rainforest on 14ha of his property by rehabilitating three small rainforest remnants and planting 35,000 rainforest trees. A founding member of Big Scrub in 1992, Tony has been president since 1993.

## Peter Latz, NT

Peter Latz is an eminent botanist, author and Landcarer. He has spent his life travelling and working in Australia's major desert bioregions. His love of plants began, growing up in an Aboriginal community, where he spoke Western Aranda. For just over 40 years he has worked at the NT Parks and Wildlife, and has authored four books and dozens of reports and papers on the botany, ecology, ethnobotany, fire regimes and cultural history of desert Australia.

The temporal depth and spatial breadth of his observations are unparalleled. His radical propositions about the functioning of arid ecosystems have revolutionised the approach to fire management in our deserts. He is said to be the first person to identify the environmental risks of Buffel grass now recognised to have major ecological impacts.

He continues to speak, mentors and share his expertise with diverse younger generations.

## Phil Moran, QLD

With more than 30 years' experience Phil Moran is a skilled environmental educator who is trusted by private and

public landholders to provide sound advice on conservation, property planning, restoration and sustainable land management. Phil spends his days consulting with landholders, water management authorities, developers and industry representatives as well as educating and inspiring school and university students. He spends his nights writing newsletter articles, identifying random plant specimens for community members, preparing slideshows and attending meetings to represent community environmental interests. Phil is a wise and trusted guide in all plant matters. He passionately promotes sustainable resource management, and is constantly helping others achieve their goals.

## Lewis Westbrook, SA

In 2006, Lewis Westbrook witnessed a fox stalking a pair of Malleefowl on the edge of his crop. It was then he realised he needed to help preserve this vulnerable species by introducing an intensive introduced predator control. For around a decade, Lewis dedicated himself to the protection of and rehabilitation of the Malleefowl habitat in the SA Murray Mallee. In 2007, the Browns Well Landcare Group (BWLCCG) was formed to carry out coordinated pest control programs. The tireless commitment of Lewis over the years has meant an increased awareness of the plight of the Malleefowl. Lewis inspires and encourages people to care enough about the Malleefowl, to want to make a difference. He is an example

of what can be done when one farmer inspires many to take action.

## Amanda Cole, TAS

Amanda Cole is a prolific volunteer with the Understorey Network where she has been a longstanding committee member. On any given day, Amanda works as the nursery coordinator, newsletter editor and is a willing helper at working bees, seed collecting walks, festivals and expos. Amanda's greatest achievements have been in coordinating the development and ongoing management of the Tolosa Community Nursery and Native Plants Display Garden in Glenorchy. This involvement has included the hosting of Green Corps teams, engaging the support of local businesses, promoting the project through local media, recruiting and coordinating a team of volunteers and well over one thousand hours of hands on volunteering, propagating plants, weeding, planting, building paths, spreading mulch and more.

## David McAninly, VIC

On both a group and network level, David has been a long-term leader in Landcare. He worked to cofound the Alberton Farm Trees Group, later to become Albert River Landcare Group more than 30 years ago, because he recognised the benefit of trees on farm and wanted to encourage his neighbours to get planting. Leading by example David planted 50,000 trees on his dairy

farm and protected 16ha of remnant vegetation, as well as tackling willow removal, riparian restoration and numerous farm improvements in nutrient and water management.

His leadership has led to countless people taking up Landcare works throughout the community. He worked with the local high school to establish a plant nursery and has taken hundreds of children tree planting over the years. His passion for the region and local people, and his ability to recognise and encourage the Landcare efforts of others has made him a real icon of the local area.

## Rhonda Williams, WA

Since 1976, Rhonda and Ross have managed a profitable and sustainable farming enterprise in the south coast region. From the beginning, they made sure that Landcare was a part of their system rather than an afterthought tacked on the end. Being an educator, Rhonda sees Landcare and sustainable agriculture as being key to long term profitability and have hosted 20 field days and 30 trials on their farms. Rhonda's significant and positive influence on the community has led her to represent Landcare at a local and regional level across 12 Landcare based organisations and local government. Rhonda has volunteered more than 8100 hours since joining Landcare in 2002, and is particularly known for her strength in planning, strategic direction, governance and transparency.

# Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare Award

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The ACT Woodland Restoration Program, ACT.



Lake Macquarie Landcare, NSW.



South Australian Regent Parrot Recovery Team, SA.



Balnggarrawarra Rangers, QLD.



South East Regional Shorebird Alliance, TAS.



Rural City of Wangaratta, VIC.



South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare, WA.

## The ACT Woodland Restoration Program - ACT

The ACT Woodland Restoration Program (2011-2018) is connecting and restoring woodland across an area of 60,000 hectares within the ACT and adjacent NSW. The program has established a multi-stakeholder delivery model between government and the Landcare community that is unique in the ACT. Midway through the program, the ACT government and Greening Australia have worked with hundreds of Landcarers, including individual volunteers, over 15 community groups and 150 rural landholders, across 170 sites to date. The program has also engaged a broad range of scientists, special interest groups and citizen scientists to assist with monitoring, peer review and best practice restoration science. To date, the program has restored and revegetated more than 1,460 hectares of woodlands, coordinated 11,600 hectares of effective fox baiting by rural landholders, and provided shelter for stock, carbon storage, protection of water quality, and improved the rich variety of woodland-based recreational experiences for the public.

## Lake Macquarie Landcare - NSW

Lake Macquarie Landcare is a community-based organisation built

on the successful working partnership between passionate, dedicated, and hardworking local volunteers and the Lake Macquarie City Council. Formalised in 2012, Lake Macquarie Landcare has become the largest network of Landcare groups in NSW. Working with almost 300 volunteer Landcare groups to protect and rehabilitate local environments and ecosystems, Lake Macquarie Landcare provides essential resources and support to these groups. The continued support of Council has provided the Landcare Resource Centre with support staff, resources, and insurance to support Landcare volunteers and projects in the area that are working to preserve unique biodiversity, increase wildlife habitat, promote bushland regeneration and reduce erosion and sedimentation. The organisation also engages and educates the wider community about the importance of sustainably managing natural resources, as well as promoting the Landcare movement.

## South Australian Regent Parrot Recovery Team - SA

After years of community monitoring of a nationally threatened bird species along the River Murray, the SA Regent Parrot Recovery Team formed six years ago to drive on-ground research and restoration for the eastern regent parrot, an iconic

species of the Riverland. Chaired by the community, the group is a true partnership between state government, five local Landcare groups, Friends of Riverland Parks, Industry partners Banrock Station and individual community members. In the last year, the team have been at the forefront of research and innovation for threatened species by; rolling out a major public sighting campaign mixing traditional and social media; developing a completely new video camera system for recording nest behaviour; designing a new backpack system for attaching GPS trackers to Regent Parrots; and completing the first health and disease screening for a wild population of this species.

## South East Regional Shorebird Alliance - TAS

The South East Regional Shorebird Alliance (SERSA) is an informal alliance between NRM South, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Tasman, Sorell, Clarence, Kingborough and Huon Valley Councils and Crown Land Services, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and, crucially, BirdLife Tasmania. SERSA have worked together for two years on ground action, resource development and sharing, engagement, and awareness-raising activities. The alliance of these key coastal organisations has enabled the sharing

of knowledge, data, and regional delivery to support local action and advocacy to protect key shorebird habitat.

## Rural City of Wangaratta - VIC

For more than a decade, the Rural City of Wangaratta has partnered with local Landcare groups. The impetus for this long, productive relationship is the commitment to reduce threats to native vegetation on sections of public land – in particular the 2,500 kilometres of rural roadsides and 160 hectares of urban bush land within Wangaratta. Innovative practices have been devised and implemented to effectively address threats to the municipality's 3,670 square kilometre diverse area ranging from alpine forests to river floodplains. This action has included on-ground works, community engagement and awareness-raising activities. The sharing of knowledge between the Landcare groups and the Rural City of Wangaratta has been facilitated by the creation of a Bush Regenerator position.

## South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare - WA

SERCUL is a respected leader in urban Landcare, working collaboratively with state agencies, local government, research institutions, business, and the community in the areas of waterways

management, community support and education, natural diversity, and sustainable production.

Formed by five community groups who recognised the need for a coordinated approach to address catchment and regional scale issues, SERCUL now provides a regional hub for Landcare groups to pool resources, share services, build capacity, and partnerships to care for the natural and cultural assets of the region. Since 2003, SERCUL's successful Landcare partnerships have seen the organisation evolve into one of the largest not-for-profit, community-driven Landcare groups in Australia.

## Balnggarrawarra Rangers - QLD

Balnggarrawarra Rangers work with local catchment groups, scientists, and Traditional Owners to preserve the biodiversity of the Gaarraay Nature Refuge. Project achievements include reduced soil erosion and the construction of 17 kilometres of climate-resilient access tracks, enabling prescribed mosaic burns to be carried out across 17,000 hectares of traditional country. Importantly, it has also connected Gaarraay Traditional Owners back to country, enabling rangers, elders, and school students to participate in field trips and events to grow knowledge of country, harvest bush tucker, and restore traditional cultural practices.

# VOTE FOR YOUR LOCAL LANDCARE CHAMPION TODAY!

## 2016 National Landcare People's Choice Awards

VOTING CLOSES ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2016  
[www.nationallandcareconference.org.au](http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au)

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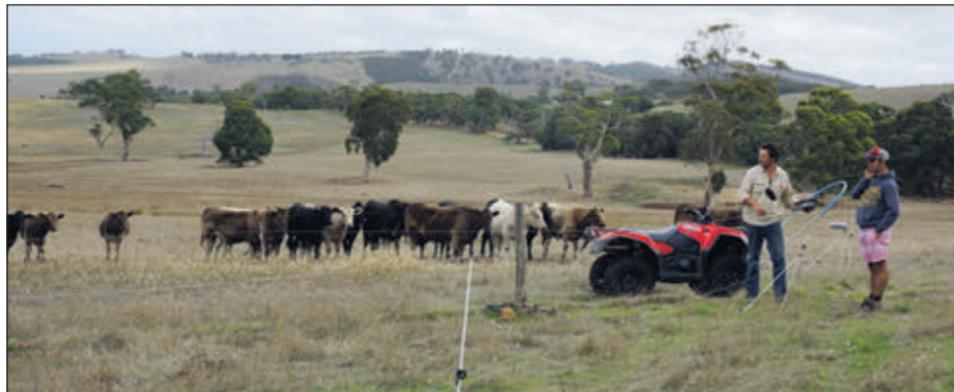


# Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices

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Southampton Homestead, WA.



Tom Bradman, Nomad Farms, SA.



John Starr, ACT.



Trevor and Anne-Marie Mills, VIC.



John, Robyn and Andrew Watson, NSW.



Steve and Rebecca Cadzow (Mt Riddock Station), NT.



Robbie Tole, TAS (second from right).

## John Starr, Gold Creek, ACT

Since 1970, John Starr and his family have run Hereford cattle and Merino sheep at Gold Creek Station/ Kinleside near Hall on the ACT's northern border. Starting as managers and then as owners, John has always managed his land to protect and enhance the property's native and introduced pastures, maintain round cover, and to ensure capability. His conservation approach to farming has received recognition from environmental groups and the ACT Government. John's management of his fertile flats has been focussed on maintaining a sustainable commercial farming operation, which has included, fodder cropping, pasture establishment, and hand feeding stock during winter feed gaps and drought, as well as innovative approaches to stock management.

## John, Robyn and Andrew Watson, NSW

For over 50 years "Kilmarnock" has been at the forefront of farming innovation. John and Robyn Watson were among the pioneers in irrigated cotton production and an early adopter of zero till. In recent years,

the innovation has been continued by son Andrew and wife Heike. They have recognised the need to use water 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. Robyn has spearheaded work along 28 kilometres of the Namoi River with the removal of Willows, Osage Orange, Honey Locust and palms, as well as the exclusion of stock from revegetated areas.

## Steve and Rebecca Cadzow, Mount Riddock Station, NT

From their family-owned property, Mount Riddock, in the Northern Territory's arid zone, Steve and Rebecca Cadzow are committed to growing quality, chemical-free, environmentally sustainable beef. The couple take a holistic approach to land management, so that it will be healthy for generations to come. They are achieving this through a continuous adaptive management approach and by leading the adoption of innovative practices in their region. The Cadzows were among the first to adopt rotational grazing in the arid zone and have worked closely with researchers to

understand its potential in the arid landscape. The station uses technology such as telemetry and solar bores to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and to improve their ability to take fine-scale management actions to optimise production outcomes.

## Tom Bradman, Nomad Farms, SA

Tom Bradman and Verity Slee have demonstrated innovative and regenerative practices at their property, Nomad Farms, in Finnis, Woodlands Run. By taking a holistic approach, they have improved native vegetation, biodiversity, ground cover, pasture composition and soil health, while increasing agricultural productivity. After participating in the Natural Resources SAMDB's 'Marginal to Mainstream' project, multispecies or 'polycultural' pasture cropping is being trialled commercially as well as through an agricultural innovation grant. Tom and Verity actively engage land managers and others in the region, regularly holding field days on the property. Tom is also a member of the Ranges to River NRM Group, the Fleurieu Beef Group and a volunteer board member with the Coolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association.

## Robbie Tole, TAS

Robbie Tole is a pioneering adopter of a wide range of high-tech farming systems at his Greenvale property near Cressy, Tasmania. Greenvale efficiently produces a lot of food by integrating precision irrigation, testing and sensing, vehicle controls, and mapping. Importantly, it uses lower than normal inputs of water, chemicals, and electricity, thus allowing precise soil management. Robbie assists those farmers who want similar improvements to quickly adopt the technology. Greenvale also has a sheep flock that's raised in a low-stress environment, with a highly nutritious diet to maximise production while minimising the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions. Rob has revegetated paddock corners around irrigation circles and other areas on the farm with mixtures of local species to improve the natural environment, encourage wildlife, and improve crops.

## Trevor and Anne-Marie Mills, VIC

Trevor, Annemarie and their two children own and manage a 122 hectare dairy farm in Drouin South, Gippsland. When Trevor took over the farm from his parents in

1997, he made an incredible number of changes to make the farm more productive, cost effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly. Trevor has promoted sustainable agriculture practices to many community groups to increase general public awareness of the role farmer's play in trying to improve biodiversity and natural resources.

## Southampton Homestead, WA

Southampton Farm's philosophy recognises it's all alive, it's all intelligent, and it's all connected. The farm grows pasture-raised poultry and a small dairy herd using Holistic Management – a practice based on managed grazing to mimic the behaviour of wild herbivores and birds in grassland ecosystems. They have used this system to completely regenerate a degraded farm in the South West of WA – firstly after pine plantations were cleared 2006 and again after a devastating fire in 2013. Additionally, owners Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus, are part of a leading trend in farming – "bringing the Terms of Trade back onto the farm" – taking responsibility for the growing and the processing of all food on the farm in their micro-abattoir, and selling their produce directly to the community.



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture  
and Water Resources

## National Pest Animal and Weed Survey

This is your opportunity to have your say about tackling weeds and pest animals affecting agriculture in your local area.

By participating in the survey at [agriculture.gov.au/pawsurvey](http://agriculture.gov.au/pawsurvey) you will be providing vital information to assess their impacts and management.

Survey closes 30 September. Find out more at [srcentre.com.au/pawsurvey](http://srcentre.com.au/pawsurvey).

*The survey is part of the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the government's plan for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.*





Jill Woodlands, SA.

## Martin Lind, ACT

Since 2008, Martin has supported Landcare and its Waterwatch group. Over this time, he's influenced many Landcarers, Waterwatchers, teachers, and students in the local area and across the ACT catchment and the Upper Murrumbidgee. Martin supports over 30 volunteers and monitors over 50 Waterwatch sites. Martin has the ability to engage the unemployed, kids at risk, people with special needs and others less likely to be involved in Landcare. Martin understands the need to develop relationships with the volunteers, works to their strengths, and supports them to improve their knowledge and make the most of their experience.

## Cherie White, NSW

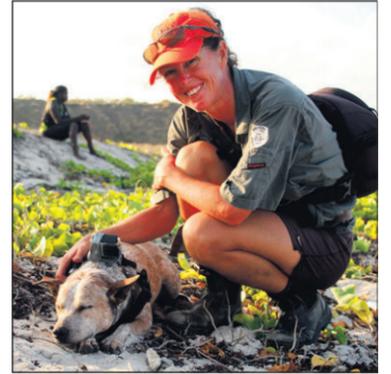
For nearly 20 years, Cherie White has been supporting landholders, the Landcare community, and regional organisations to implement sustainable land management practices. She has motivated and supported farmers to make informed decisions and to implement change. Cherie has challenged, motivated, and supported Landcare Groups to undertake ambitious yet integrated natural resource management projects that have led to noticeable improvements in the region's landscape. She has also been responsible for the facilitation, delivery and monitoring of a number of on-ground projects throughout the Riverina region.

## Vanessa Drysdale, NT

For nearly eight years as the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation's Sea Country Facilitator, Vanessa has helped look after the sea and the land to award-winning levels for the Yolngu Traditional Owners and custodians. This work included the winning of the Clean Beaches Award for Keep Australia Beautiful in 2014.



Martin Lind, ACT.



Vanessa Drysdale, NT.



Rob Fallon, VIC.

Vanessa's ability to get the most out of limited resources is particularly valuable in an area as remote as northeast Arnhem Land. Vanessa's respect and understanding of local and regional NRM practitioners, from Yolngu and non-Aboriginal backgrounds, and from business, recreation or research interests, make her an invaluable asset.

## Jill Woodlands, SA

Jill Woodlands believes people are the heart of Landcare. She has supported and connected a network of environmental NGOs who work on SAs natural resource management with state and national organisations. Jill facilitated and supported the NGO NRM Alliance, a group with a formal agreement outlining how they will work together. Jill has also been instrumental in connecting with government agencies and statutory bodies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resource and the NRM boards, endeavouring to ensure appropriate engagement with NGOs by government at every opportunity.

## Holly Hansen, TAS

Holly Hansen has worked tirelessly as a Landcare facilitator for 17 years. Starting her career coordinating the Huon Healthy Rivers Project, Holly won the Young



Cherie White, NSW.

Australian of the Year Award for Tasmania. She has worked hard to form and support many Waterwatch and Landcare Groups. After a stint at Greening Australia where she was a Bushcare Extension Officer liaising with and supporting land owners to manage their native vegetation, she returned to Huon Valley Council as the NRM coordinator. More recently, Holly has been employed as a facilitator at NRM South.

## Rob Fallon, VIC

After the devastation of the 2009 bushfires in Victoria, funding was provided to support Landcare in Yarra Ranges to assist communities affected by bushfire. Rob Fallon, while personally affected by the fires, was appointed Northern Yarra Landcare facilitator and in four years successfully helped establish three Landcare groups and the Northern Yarra Blackberry Action Group (NYBAG). He has helped facilitate over 40 workshops on a variety of land management issues, and secured assets for the communities with equipment. He also established a volunteer program, linking local school groups with the Landcare groups, and lay the groundwork for numerous future projects such as the Chum Creek waterway habitat project. Rob continues to volunteer with NYBAG.

## Jill Richardson, WA

Jill Richardson has spent 25 years dedicated to furthering Landcare in Western Australia. Joining the Katanning LCDC since its foundation, initially as a volunteer and then employee, Jill has led significant on-ground environmental works and behavioural change in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. Jill is a connector, mentor, devil's advocate, do-er, friend and "Landcare Mum" for large networks of NRM people. Jill is passionate about community-driven Landcare, sitting as a member of the National Landcare Network for the past five years. As a volunteer, Jill drove the formation of the WA Landcare Network and is now serving as the inaugural chairwoman.



Holly Hansen, TAS.



Jill Richardson, WA.

## Kay Enkelman, QLD

For the better part of a decade, Kay has worked with Landcare groups and other rural, regional community groups to help them achieve their goals. Kay's involvement began as a Landcare Coordinator with the Mitchell and District Landcare Group in south-west Queensland in 2008. Her commitment to the responsibilities of this Landcare Coordination has laid the foundations for the way in which Kay continues to operate on a day-to-day basis, now as the Regional Landcare facilitator in the Burnett Mary region. Committed



Kay Enkelman, QLD.

to supporting the rural and regional communities in the Burnett and Mary River catchments, Kay is actively involved in a wide range of Landcare and producer group activities in both her profession as an RLF and as a landholder in the South Burnett.

# Exciting times for Landcare in Victoria

On 25 November Landcare in Victoria celebrates its 30th anniversary. A host of events and activities are taking place across the state to celebrate the achievements of Landcarers who have helped restore and protect Victoria's land, water and biodiversity for the past 30 years.

As we approach this significant milestone, it is timely to consider how digital communications are utilised to ensure Landcarers can easily engage, access, and share information.

Victorian Landcare Program staff have partnered with website developers, Thick, in consultation with the Landcare community, to develop a new Landcare website – launching late September.

For more information about the redevelopment of the Victorian Landcare website visit: [landcarevic.net.au](http://landcarevic.net.au)

If you have any further enquiries contact: [landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au)



# Manpower Young Landcare Leader Award

www.nationallandcareconference.org.au



Amy Hammond, NSW (right).



Kate Williams, VIC.



Ian Rayner, ACT.



Naomi Edwards, QLD.

## Ian Rayner, ACT

Ian is leading the charge of volunteers and landholders who want to make their land more sustainable. Using Greening Australia's (GA) vision, they are engaging the community in environmental sustainability. One of Ian's biggest achievements has been the recruiting of thousands of volunteers over the past five years to plant hundreds of thousands of trees across 500 hectares to protect Canberra's water supply and regenerate the area after the 2003 bushfires. Ian also manages an incentive scheme to provide assistance and advice to private landholders and lessees to improve farm sustainability. He produces GA's Capital Regionation, a quarterly newsletter, an annual GA calendar, as well as managing GA communications more broadly via social and traditional media.

## Amy Hammond, NSW

Amy is a Gamilaroi and Dhungatti woman who cares and believes in Australia. Working in partnership with the Gomeroi Dance Company (GDC), her volunteer work with Galala Rivercare has been consistent since its inception in 2013. She has taken on a coordinator role, running projects and writing funding submissions. Together, Amy and GDC share an active commitment to the people in the north-west community and aim to nurture and raise cultural and environmental awareness through combined activities. Amy has contributed to organising working bees, community and family days, school days, workshops, and cultural events. This is all in addition to Amy's usual volunteer Rivercare activities of Willow control, nest box construction, rubbish collection, potting up seedlings, instream and bank planting, and tree maintenance.



Ella Maesepp, WA.

## Daniel Chapman, NT

Since March 2014, Daniel Chapman has been the Gulf Savanna Regional Coordinator with Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM). Daniel has managed to form excellent relationships with the landholders and NT Government staff operating in the region. Within his region, he has facilitated the growth of the TNRM Territory Conservation Program, worked behind the scenes with members of the community and NT Government officers to try to grow capacity in NRM, and has played a major role in the establishment of a Landcare group in the Gulf Rivers region. Daniel always goes above and beyond to ensure that community and on ground needs are met.

## Saskia Gerhardy, SA

Saskia has helped to develop and run an environmental youth group Youth and Community Conservation Action that encourages young people to become involved in local community environmental projects. Saskia assists the group to become empowered around local and global issues that concern them, creates environmental awareness within the group around concerns, as well as teaching the group how to be proactive in dealing with these issues and creates a



Daniel Chapman, NT.

positive impact in working towards solutions. To-date, her group has worked with; Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board, ReefWatch, Trees For Life Willunga Branch, Arid Lands Recovery Program, Fleurieu Bird Watching Group, Landcare, local government, as well as local schools.

## Hannah Moloney, TAS

Hannah has spent the last 10 years educating and empowering people to live productive, sustainable, and meaningful lives in the city and on the land. Through her company Good Life Permaculture and her many collaborations, she has built and designed community gardens, teaches permaculture, delivers programs on composting and waste management, and recently developed training through State Government Climate Change funding on how to repair and manage denuded rivers and riparian land for farmers and Landcare groups. She is a member of the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network and is one of the founders of the new cutting-edge initiative the Hobart City Farm. She also delivers free workshops and training sessions, writes a blog and newsletter, and taught permaculture design to farmers in the Solomon Islands as a volunteer.



Hannah Moloney, TAS.

## Kate Williams, VIC

Kate has been a project officer for the South Gippsland Landcare Network for more than five years and has led the network to make a real impact on the South Gippsland environment. Kate has been a champion in the region in mitigating pest plants and animals. As executive officer of the Community Weeds Taskforce (CWT) for five years, she has run a range of education days and has presented posters and papers at several conferences. Not one to settle, she is constantly thinking of fresh and innovative events such as the recent pedal to plate bike tours of Landcare sites. Active on social media, she has



Saskia Gerhardy, SA.

expanded the audience of Landcare in the region.

## Ella Maesepp, WA

Ella has worked as a Landcare Officer in the Upper Blackwood area for 12 years, delivering millions of dollars' worth of projects to protect biodiversity, manage salinity, increase agricultural sustainability, and reduce individual carbon footprints. She works with farmers, children, townies, Indigenous people, government agencies, and community volunteers. Ella is a former member of the Australian Landcare Council and lead author of "Engaging the 20-Somethings in Landcare", helping Landcare Groups across Australia better understand their connection with Gen Y. She presents at a wide range of conferences across the country on a diverse range of Landcare topics, and participates in a number of Landcare committees. Ella has volunteered for environmental causes since her teens, including with Scouts and local Landcare groups.

## Naomi Edwards, QLD

Naomi is an instigator of progressive change when it comes to addressing environmental issues. Passionate about intergenerational engagement in Landcare, Naomi's most recent Landcare venture has involved co-founding Intrepid Landcare with Megan Rowlett to inspire young people to act and lead with Landcare. This achievement builds on almost a decade of innovative Landcare initiatives such as building the brand for the award-winning BeachCare program, co-designing Gold Coast's Biggest Tree Planting Day and more recently the Gold Coast Landcare Forum. Networking, building partnerships and branding the perfect pitch is her biggest strength, enabling everyone to be part of the Landcare movement. She is a representative on multiple national-to-local boards and committees and mentors many young people to lead Landcare.

**DATES:**  
25 FEBRUARY  
- 3 MARCH  
2017

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# Indigenous Land Corporation Indigenous Land Management Award

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Barapa Culture Team, VIC.



Wally Bell, ACT.

## Wally Bell, ACT

Wally is a Ngunawal man who has used his cultural knowledge of country to maintain land for decades. Wally's qualifications in conservation and land management complement his cultural knowledge and he uses both scientific and Aboriginal approaches to look after his traditional lands. Wally is now the Director of Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation and in this capacity works to ensure Ngunawal views are represented in various planning and land management forums. With his brother, he has been working with all three catchment groups in the ACT to lead more than 30 very successful interpretive walks that provide community education on Aboriginal cultural heritage. Over the past two years Wally has established Mulanggang Traditional Aboriginal Landcare Group with the Ginninderra Catchment Group, which is assisting Aboriginal people to maintain significant cultural sites in the ACT region and pass on knowledge of country to younger Aboriginal people.

## Dwayne Evans, NSW

Dwayne Evans has been looking after Winterriga Station near Wilcannia for the past eight years. 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. Dwayne also put together a team of young Aboriginal men from nearby communities to complete a range of works on Winterriga station and surrounding properties. Activities undertaken by the group includes fencing, digging drainage lines to direct water flow away from roads to negate erosion, lamb marking, sheep drenching and mustering of feral goats to ease the pressure on the land.

## Crocodile Island Rangers, NT

The Crocodile Islands Rangers manage the land and sea country of the Crocodile Islands, off the north east coast of Arnhem Land. The Rangers manage about 40,000 hectares of land, 200 kilometres of coastline and 6,000 square kilometers of sea country within Castlereagh Bay, a site recognised as being of international conservation significance due to the large aggregations of migratory shorebirds, large seabird colonies, and important marine turtle nesting



Fraser Island World Heritage Area Indigenous Advisory Committee, QLD.



Weetapoon Aboriginal Corporation, TAS.

beaches. This Ranger group was set up by the traditional owners, and is governed by a traditional owner executive committee. The 10 full-time rangers work closely with the traditional owners, elders, junior rangers and the community in a wide variety of land and sea management activities. The Rangers have received a wide range of land and sea management training, and they combine these new skills and knowledge with their traditional Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, to manage and protect their unique area.

## Claudia Smith, SA

Claudia is a Narungga Elder from Yorke Peninsula. In 2013 she raised concerns about damage to the area known as the Tippara Springs Campsite, which was being severely damaged by unauthorised 4WDs, motorbikes, and quad bikes accessing the site from inland and coastal tracks. A working group was formed to develop a holistic approach in the conservation of this culturally and environmentally significant area. The working group developed a simple,

effective and affordable conservation model that can be used in other areas to conserve landscapes with heritage, flora and fauna values.

## Weetapoon Aboriginal Corporation, TAS

The Weetapoon Aboriginal Corporation (wAC) has worked with a number of stakeholders including community groups, local farmers and NRM organisations such as the Understorey Network, Greening Australia, the University of Tasmania and NRM South, in order to protect and enhance natural assets on Murrayfield Station, a large sheep farm situated on North Bruny Island, Tasmania. Murrayfield Station is endowed with a wealth of cultural heritage and natural assets and contains many areas of special significance, including 280 sites of Aboriginal interest. wAC has allowed several organisations to carry out important research relating topics such as; Eucalyptus viminalis recovery, pasture management, soil health and Eastern quoll surveys.



Claudia Smith, SA.

## Barapa Culture Team, VIC

The Barapa Culture team and project steering committee has worked in partnership with North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) over the past two years to identify, map and record the cultural values of the Lower Gunbower Forest to improve the management of environmental water. Through two-way cross-cultural and intergenerational knowledge sharing on country, information has been collected so that the cultural and spiritual values may be incorporated into environmental watering plans and Barapa Barapa Traditional Owner's voices can be heard in the water management of Gunbower Forest.

## Woolkabunning Kiaka INC, WA

Woolkabunning Kiaka INC (WKI) has worked with various professional and volunteer partners in sustainable land management practice at Roelands Village in the south west of WA. WKI has delivered programs such as the youth focused RESPECT program, signed and carried out a volunteer MOU with South West TAFE, established WKI Works Crew, and run Roelands Village Community Volunteer Action Days. The small, dedicated team of WKI Committee Members and Roelands Village Community Members worked together to establish a bush tucker demonstration garden and undertake native revegetation, pruning, weed control, farm management and various pilot projects for sustainable farm practices. A dedicated team of community volunteers, committee members, Landcare volunteers, education providers, scientific experts,



Dwayne Evans, NSW.

government agencies and professionals work together for long term planning, training, capacity building, employment and on ground implementation.

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

The Recognising & 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. 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 grave sites on this World Heritage listed property. The project has established closer ties between the Aboriginal Ranger team and Butchulla elders and broader engagement and stewardship by the Butchulla community with forums, field trips and newsletters.



## Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award

www.nationallandcareconference.org.au



Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee Inc, NSW.

### Mt Taylor ParkCare Group, ACT

The efforts of the Mt Taylor ParkCare Group, who have been active for 26 years, have seen the successful removal of about 48,000 woody weeds from the reserve, growing and planting about 1,000 plants and 500 shrubs native to Mt Taylor whilst also regularly monitoring and protecting rare plants. Tapping into the knowledge of local ecologists, botanists and ornithologists, the group has compiled detailed botanical records and bird sightings for the reserve. The group shares their passion for the reserve with others through annual wildflower walks, school engagement and Facebook.

### Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee Inc, NSW

The Glen Innes Natural Resource Advisory Committee (GLENRAC) has been servicing the natural resource management needs of land managers of the Glen Innes community since 1989. GLENRAC has not only delivered a diversity of on-ground projects with both private and public land holders, but has worked to build the capacity and resilience of members and the community. During the region's recent first drought in 50 years, GLENRAC placed an emphasis on providing information and support for landholders across a range of topics, including mental health, that demonstrates it cares for the community and the land.

### Finniss Reynolds Catchment Group, NT

The Finniss Reynolds Catchment Group (FRCC) protects the high

biodiversity of the Finniss River and Anson Bay catchment, found south-west of Darwin. The group is focussed on the control of feral pigs and the invasive prickly floodplain weed, *Mimosa pigra*. The 5500 square kilometre catchment area is occupied by 900 land parcels and presents a mix of Indigenous land, pastoral properties, national parks, crown land, weekender blocks, and rural residential blocks. The FRCC have identified and mapped *Mimosa pigra* infestation in the catchment, used an annual aerial spray program to treat large scale infestations each wet season, collected baseline data on feral pig density by aerial survey and performed aerial culling, and employed a project officer to manage and coordinate activities.

### Port MacDonnell Landcare Group - SA

The Port MacDonnell Landcare Group formed in 1973 with the objective of protecting native fauna, existing trees and revegetation to assist in conservation and beautification. The group has been instrumental in creating and restoring the Germein Reserve to provide valuable habitat for a range of local plants and animals. They have been highly successful in accessing funding to help revegetate Mt Schank, create local wildlife corridors through private land, rehabilitate local caves, restore coastal habitat, plant native woodlots, establish seed orchards, develop walking trails, undertake pest plant and animal control, restore wetlands and trial new techniques to increase biodiversity in the Lower South East of South Australia.

### Tasman Landcare Group, TAS

Tasman Landcare Group (TLG) demonstrates and promotes holistic and



Finniss Reynolds Catchment Group, NT.

sustainable land and water management for primary production, recreation and conservation. Its activities are focused on forming partnerships with individuals and organisations to implement on-ground activities and to communicate the benefits of holistic land management. Its initial project was to develop a vegetation management plan for Tasman and Sorell municipalities. Over the past 20 years, this plan and ongoing community engagement have guided and underpinned the group's activities. Activities are selected based on the environmental and social benefits they provide, and cover a broad range of community social and environmental aspirations. Projects have included coastal and riparian management, pasture productivity, shelter belts and farm forestry, wildlife management and cultural heritage conservation.

### Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group, VIC

The Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group (MCLG) have developed new Landcare initiatives such as the Moorabool Nectar Project, that has planted nectar producing plants, and



Nerang Riverkeepers, QLD.

pits across the Greenbushes region to provide habitats specific to the needs of endangered water birds and migratory species. The strength of this project comes from the partnerships forged with industry and government bodies, and the local community. These partnerships have led to the development of improved revegetation techniques, citizen science-based volunteer programs, involvement with local schools to build and install black cockatoo nest boxes, and landscape scale invasive species control.

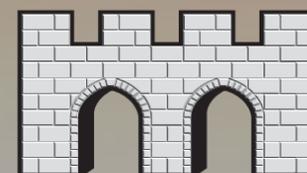
### Nerang Riverkeepers, QLD

Nerang Riverkeepers were formed in 2000 to tackle environmental issues such as weed infestation and illegal rubbish dumping in the Kirkendale Environmental Park on the Gold Coast. The group successfully restored the area by planting native plants and removing weeds. They soon moved onto Hurst Park, Weedons Crossing, Swift Park, Country Paradise Parklands, Batton's Reserve, Crane Creek, Water Dragon Creek as well as school-grounds and correctional centres. By default, they are proud waterway stewards of many restored creeks and natural areas within Gold Coast's largest catchment and river system. They are also co-founders of innovative large-scale Landcare projects, including the 'Gold Coast's Biggest Tree Planting Day'. Being the bridge between the local council, government agencies and natural resource management authorities, they have been able to bring Landcare to families, young people, and marginalised communities, a demographic largely missing in Landcare. Underpinning their work is a common set of goals and principles, those being integrity, respect and taking an open-minded approach.

### Blackwood Basin Community Group, WA

The Blackwood Basin Group has been coordinating community-managed Landcare projects across the Blackwood Catchment for over two decades, working with 54 catchment groups, assisting more than 500 farming families and delivering more than \$16 million of Landcare activities throughout the iconic river basin. The Priority Bittern and Waterbird Biodiversity Enhancement Project (Waterbird Project), involves designing and establishing a mosaic of freshwater wetlands from historical mining

Thank you Jaramas Foundation for your support of Landcare Australia since 2012, reinforcing our commitment to sustainable agricultural techniques that reduce and repair environmental degradation.



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# Junior Landcare Team Award

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Wanniasa Hills Primary School, ACT.



Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, NSW.



Alawa Primary School, NT.



Barmera Primary School, SA.



Huon Valley Roamers Landcare, TAS.



Little Gems Children's Centre, Georgetown, QLD.



Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers Cadets, WA.



Barwon Heads Primary School, VIC.

## Wanniasa Hills Primary School, ACT

Wanniasa Hills Primary School, under the leadership of environment science teacher Deb Shaw, has turned into a vibrant and productive hands-on environmental teaching area. With vegetable gardens, a chicken enclosure, a plastic bottle greenhouse and a frog pond, students learn about natural resource management and sustainability. In the kitchen garden sessions, students prepare and share meals using the vegetables they have planted and harvested from the school garden. 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.

## Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, NSW

Over the past five years, the Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre – Creative Catchment Kids program has grown to include 60 Murray and Riverina schools. Its mission is to engage the region's students and schools to develop more

resilient landscapes and communities through a change in attitude toward natural resource management. The program provides positive, real-life and cooperative activities that encourage students to learn about and respond to natural resource management, the importance of farming, biosecurity and pest management.

## Alawa Primary School, NT

In 2004, Alawa Primary School began a project to focus more attention on sustainability and to provide a stimulating hands-on science program. The school began the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, which uses children's curiosity and energy to provide positive and memorable food and gardening experiences that will contribute to the development of lifelong healthy habits.

## Barmera Primary School, SA

The Barmera Primary School's environmental focus is to provide a wide variety of learning experiences to move towards a sustainable school. In addition, the school's

bush tucker garden gives student's hands-on experience and knowledge of Indigenous practices, which is fostered by the parents of Aboriginal students who work with them. Students can experience farming with the use of the renovated propagating shade-house and an enclosed garden area. In addition, the school's free range chickens provide eggs for cooking and are sold.

## Huon Valley Roamers Landcare, TAS

The Huon Valley Roamers Landcare kicked off in January 2014. The Roamers broadly define "Landcare" from traditional on-ground activities to creating awareness of and caring for the land. The aim is 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 group has a strong focus on families, and their greatest success (and passion!) has been engaging with youth and kids – their appreciation and enthusiasm to care for and enjoy nature and the environment is motivational in itself.

## Barwon Heads Primary School, VIC

Barwon Heads Primary School, in partnership with local groups, creates awareness of the impacts to the area's mangroves, seagrass meadows, grassy woodlands, farmland and Coastal Moonah Woodlands. In 2012, students in Years 5 and 6 designed the branding for the Let Our Sea Be Plastic Bag Free project, which continues to grow today. More than 4000 reusable jute shopping bags, town signage, roadside drain stencilling, community screen printing, 300 postcards, 500 reusable fruit and vegetable bags, three giant marine puppets and ongoing media, support the cause.

## Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers Cadets, WA

Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers Cadets is a school program targeted at Year 9 and 10 students. Through this program, Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers Cadets have been involved in a range of environmental programs

both within the school and in the local community.

School based environmental issues addressed by the cadets have included recycling, tree planting and weeding programs. Recycling activities have included the Bush Rangers developing and implementing a paper and printer cartridge recycling program. Bush Rangers are responsible for raising and creating awareness throughout the school as well as in the local community.

## Little Gems Children's Centre, Georgetown, QLD

Little Gems Children's Centre has driven environmental changes throughout the centre to teach the children and community about environmental sustainability. Activities include the planting of a vegetable garden, litter free lunch boxes, recycling of cans, bags and other materials for clothes, arts and craft supplies and in the centre's outdoor area. Scraps are collected for the centre's chooks, compost and worm farm. The centre has also worked with government organisations and community groups to create a visual garden that educates about local plants and flora.



Coastcare Award  
www.nationallandcareconference.org.au



Coolum and District Coastcare, QLD.



Sydney Rockclimbing Club, NSW.



Tennyson Dunes Group, SA.



West Coastcare (Inc), WA.



Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, VIC.



Port Esperance Coastcare, TAS.



Darwin Harbour Clean-up Partners, NT.

### Sydney Rockclimbers Mountain Goat Bushcare Group, NSW

The Sydney Rock Climbers group has been involved in bush regeneration in northern Sydney focusing on noxious weeds on coastal cliff areas. The group started at Barrenjoey Headland when a member noticed that the activities of the rock climbers were damaging the vegetation around the cliffs and that there were weeds growing in place of native plants. They have now become involved with two other sites that have endangered Themeda Grasslands. They use social media to promote their activities, post on a range of websites and have developed an app for weed identification that's been downloaded over 2,000 times. The group has also assisted with the protection of Aboriginal historical sites around the climbing areas.

### Darwin Harbour Clean-up Partners, NT

A seafood industry initiative, for the past seven years the annual Darwin Harbour Clean-Up has brought together government and non-government agencies, private businesses and community groups for a weekday clean-up activity. As well as removing rubbish from the waters

and coastline of Darwin Harbour, the clean-up continues to raise awareness about the effects of rubbish entering the waterways. Darwin Harbour Clean-Up provides the seafood industry an opportunity to partner with numerous stakeholders to remove rubbish from a much-loved, visible and accessible harbour, while highlighting the broader issue of rubbish in the marine environment in general. Currently involving up to 40 major supporters and participants, with strong links with the marine environment, representing research, fisheries management, water quality, compliance, search and rescue, tourism, transport, environment, indigenous ranger groups, oil and gas industry, seafood retailers and wholesalers, aquaculture and the professional fishing industry.

### Tennyson Dunes Group, SA

The Tennyson Dunes were once seen as troublesome sand hills choked with African boxthorns and marguerite daisy. Worse, many people viewed the dunes' value in terms of development and mining potential. For 20 years, the Tennyson Dunes Group have worked tirelessly to change this perception and rehabilitate the site through weed control, plant propagation, revegetation, threatened species recovery and interpretive signage. Additionally, their advocacy and educational work has elevated

the Tennyson Dunes status to a biodiversity hotspot that is a key site for school and community education and nature play. The work of the Dunes Group has put this site, which was once earmarked for development, on the environmental map and in the minds and hearts of the community.

### Port Esperance Coastcare, TAS

Port Esperance Coastcare is a group of dedicated volunteers who have a long history of working closely with the broader community in Dover and with the Huon Valley Council, to manage coastal environmental issues. The group has worked on significant issues such as weed infestations that spanned entire beaches, storm surge events that have wiped out entire revegetation areas, and community concern regarding water quality in a coastal lagoon. The broader community is now reaping the benefits of a more resilient recreation area. The group have also worked on interpretive signage to increase community awareness of the coastal values at Kent Beach and Knobbys Point, and have hosted open working bees with the community, the Council and with the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation.

### Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, VIC

Since 2009, Yarram Yarram Landcare Network's Coastal Saltmarsh

Protection Project has protected more than 720 hectares of saltmarsh on freehold land between Port Albert and Reeves Beach. Working closely with landowners, this project has protected and enhanced high priority areas of coastal vegetation. Management activities have included weed and vermin removal, and fencing to exclude livestock from sensitive areas to allow natural regeneration, enhanced in some areas by strategic re-vegetation with 46,000 locally indigenous tube stock. This landscape scale project has enabled the local community to work collaboratively to create an ecological buffer zone between farmland and Corner Inlet Ramsar Listed Wetlands. The long-term goal to provide a continuous biolink to protect the Corner Inlet and Nooramunga wetlands has now become a reality.

### West Coastcare (Inc), WA

West Coastcare (Inc) was formed in 2007 by a group of seven individuals with the aim of raising awareness of the fragility of the coastal foreshore through community participation and education of primary school-aged children. Since inception this environmental group has been responsible for management, educational and sustainability activities at Mettams Pool, North Beach, in partnership with the local government land manager, City of

Stirling, Marmion Primary School, and the local community. More than 250 Year 4 and 5 students participated in an education program that teaches seeding propagation and nursery management and produces 600 coastal indigenous plants annually. More than 100 volunteers participate each year to rid the area of non-indigenous species and more than 18,000 coastal seedlings have been planted and maintained, creating an area of great beauty and biodiversity.

### Coolum and District Coastcare, QLD

Since 2001, Coolum District Coast Care Inc has consistently worked hard to galvanise energy and public interest in caring for the coastal environment on the Maroochy north shore of the Sunshine Coast and beyond. The group has evolved into a highly respected organisation that is still largely comprised of and run by volunteers, with a vast annual calendar of productive and creative activities and citizen science programs that effectively engage with all ages. More than 60 residents are involved in the local weeding groups whose monthly group weedings converge at one site, and the enthralling Eco Discovery workshops are run over school holidays and annually attract more than 400 children, parents and grandparents. In addition, the vigilant turtle monitoring and action network monitors 100 nests and has saved many from erosion by careful relocation.



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# Australia's future well-being is tied to the health of our land

By MICHAEL JEFFERY

**M**Y APPOINTMENT by the Prime Minister as the National Soil Advocate has given me opportunities over the past few years to meet some 4,000 farmers, agricultural students, departmental staff, land-care groups, CSIRO and politicians.

I have witnessed much farming innovation, passion for the land, hard work and good sense.

However, my major observation is that planetary survival is going to depend to a large extent on how we look after our soil and in particular, the top 30 centimetres.

The microbial, fungal and nutrient functioning of the soil requires a diversity of plant cover and appropriate movement of water through the soil. This integrated process needs national oversight.

We need a national policy "to restore and maintain the health of the Australian landscape" to achieve sustainable triple bottom line results – environmental, financial and social benefits. To 'fix the policy' we need to have acceptance at every level of government, that our soil, water and vegetation be declared key national, natural strategic assets to be managed accordingly in an integrated way.

This policy needs the input of all key players including agriculture,

environment, mining, health, education, trade, regional development, defence, the private sector and importantly, the Australian public.

We must also 'fix the paddock', through restoring the health of our soil. Why?

- Healthy soil is fundamental for the future of our planet – providing sustainable food and fibre production, and is vital for the absorption, retention and filtering of water for agriculture and drinking, providing timber for construction.
- Healthy soil is carbon enriched and this helps to regulate the Earth's climate. Soil stores more carbon than all of the world's forests combined and every gram of soil carbon can absorb up to 8 grams of water. The soil is a giant sponge.
- Healthy soil is resilient.
- Healthy soil requires good water flow management on the surface and within the soil, good microbial, nutrient and fungal function, appropriate (not excessive) mineral content and diverse and widespread vegetation coverage.

The health of our soil and the regeneration of the Australian agricultural landscape is a responsibility for the whole population.

It is unfair to leave the management of about 60 percent of the total Australian landscape to 130,000 farmers without reasonable



National Soil Advocate Michael Jeffery.

reward, both for their product and for their land-caring function.

We cannot expect them to carry the whole burden. We all need to play our part. We need to reconnect urban Australia with its rural roots, to ensure

that people know where their food and fibre comes from and the vital importance of healthy soil for our future generations.

So let us all get cracking to both 'fix the paddock' and 'fix the policy'.

## National RLF Forum a great networking success

**T**HE recent National Regional Landcare Facilitators (RLF) Forum held in Canberra provided the perfect opportunity for the RLF Network to come together to network and share ideas for mutual benefit.

The RLF Network, which is funded by the National Landcare Programme, comprises 76 facilitators located throughout the 56 NRM regions across Australia.

On May 4-5, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources hosted the National RLF Forum in Canberra. There was a positive feeling across the two days with feedback consistently reflecting that the forum provided a fantastic opportunity to share ideas with other RLFs across the country.

This enthusiastic response is typically reflected by Jennifer Freeman from the Condamine region who said she "appreciated the opportunity to share ideas with other members of the RLF Network across the country".

"I am now running a cross-regional Women in Agriculture tour as a result of sharing ideas with other states", Jennifer said.

- To find your local RLF visit [nrm.gov.au/contact/nrm-officers](http://nrm.gov.au/contact/nrm-officers).

## Pest Animal and Weed Management Survey

**F**IRST-HAND awareness about the magnitude of pest animal and weed management in Australia is a vital component in combating these serious biosecurity threats. Accordingly, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) is conducting a national survey on pest animal and weed management. The survey aims to build awareness of pest animal and weed management problems in the community and also contributes to the monitoring and evaluation process associated with pest animal and weed management programmes. It is the first extensive national survey of pest animal and weed management since 2006-07.

The survey is open until September 30, 2016, and all farm businesses in Australia have the opportunity to participate by going to [agriculture.gov.au/pawsurvey](http://agriculture.gov.au/pawsurvey) to complete the survey. Results are expected to be published for each natural resource management (NRM) region, as well as each state/territory and nationally.

- Further information about the survey can be found at [scentre.com.au/pawsurvey](http://scentre.com.au/pawsurvey)

## Correction

**T**HE May 2016 edition of Landcare in Focus featured an article with Murray Jeffrey of Lion and mistakenly referred to him as CEO.

Mr Jeffrey is actually the Agricultural Procurement Director. We apologise for the error.

## Lion Landcare Grants help cut dairy energy costs

**T**HE Lion Landcare Grants program is an initiative of Landcare Australia and Lion to help dairy farmers shift to sustainable farming practices and invest in technology that reduces their costs.

Among the 11 dairy farmers awarded grants in 2015, a farmer in Tasmania and another in Queensland have both seen significant results.

Trina Hole, who operates a dairy in Tasmania's West Kentish and runs 300 head of mixed Friesian cattle, said the grant has cut \$1,200 from her annual electricity bill.

This reduction was achieved by the installation of a more efficient and powerful variable speed drive. The drive powers the vacuum pump that draws the milk out of the udder and into the storage vats. As a benefit, the drive is quieter, improving the life of those in the cow shed.

In Harrisville, Queensland, the Hines' 120-hectare dairy farm "Wilson Plains" used their grant to upgrade their irrigation systems with energy efficient solid set sprays to water their pastures.

Lyn Hines said the solid set sprays could be used at night when power costs were cheaper than peak rates, and required less water as little, if any, was lost from evaporation.

On both properties, the grants have improved land management and biodiversity as well by repairing pastures and replanting native vegetation to cut down on erosion and encourage native birds and animals back to the farm.

The grants program, set up in 2014, is an example of Landcare Australia working across industry to improve land management and work with the farming community.



The Lion tractor in the field.