



MEDIA RELEASE

Sustainability community takes centre stage at the National Landcare Conference

The three-day conference highlights excellence and innovation Landcaring

31 August 2016: The National Landcare Conference, which opens in 20 days, is Australia's premier sustainability and biodiversity event. All community members interested in caring for the land and water that sustain us are encouraged to attend the three-day event held in Melbourne from 21-23 September.

The theme of the biennial conference is Collaborative Communities – Landcare in Action, and gives the Landcare community an opportunity to share information over a series of panel discussions and presentations that reveal the new and innovative practises that Landcarers can incorporate into their sustainability projects. Those who want to get involved and gain knowledge can register online at nationallandcareconference.org.au but need to hurry, as tickets are selling out quickly!

This year the conference will feature over 30 presentations, workshops, and panel discussions led by 50 respected speakers on subjects including rehabilitation of soil erosion, the challenges of climate change, landscape restoration, and grazing best management practices. In addition, discussions will be opened on government initiatives such as; 20 Million Trees projects, biosecurity, and opportunities for carbon sequestration. Attendees can also sign up for field trips organised across 11 regional sites and projects to witness local natural resource management all across Victoria.

Tessa Jakszewicz, Landcare Australia CEO, emphasised the importance for those involved in Landcaring to attend and learn from others with expertise in the field.

“This national event, which only happens every two years, presents an ideal opportunity for community members to learn of the latest technologies and programs that are driving sustainability and biodiversity today. Knowledge gained over the three days is invaluable!” Tessa said.

Well-known TV host of ABC's *Gardening Australia*, Costa Georgiadis, will facilitate as master of ceremonies, promising light-hearted engagement during the conference. General Major Michael Jeffrey, the former Governor-General of Australia and first-ever government-appointed Advocate for Soil Health, will provide attendees with fresh insights during his talk on 'Save the Soil; Save the Planet.'

For Victorians, this year marks 30 years of Landcare in the state, where attendees will reflect on the achievements since Landcare pioneers Heather Mitchell and Joan Kirner laid the foundations that inspired the national Landcare movement in 1986.

In recognition of excellence in the community, the National Landcare Awards gala dinner – held on 22 September – will showcase 69 finalists vying for 11 national awards. The prestigious Bob Hawke Landcare Award comes with a \$50,000 prize that will be used to further develop the winner's knowledge and skills in sustainable land management practices and Landcare.

The National Landcare Awards are being delivered by Landcare Australia in partnership with the Australian Government's

This project is supported by Landcare Australia, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the Victorian Government.





National Landcare Program and the Victorian Government, and are sponsored by Fairfax Media, Indigenous Land Corporation, and ManpowerGroup Australia.

-END-

For more information, please contact:

Manjari Fergusson
Communications Executive
Landcare Australia
Tel: 02 8440 8807
Email: manjari.fergusson@landcareaustralia.com.au

About Landcare Australia

Landcare Australia Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation, leading the promotion of and providing financial support to the Landcare national 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

This project is supported by Landcare Australia, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the Victorian Government.

