



MEDIA RELEASE

Register now for the National Landcare Conference and Awards

Eight finalists from Australian Capital Territory feature in the popular People's Choice Award

8 August 2016: All Australians who are interested in learning about sustainability and Landcare are invited to attend the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards. Taking place from 21 to 23 September at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre, the event gives the Landcare community an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and share knowledge over the three-day event. Registration is now open at nationallandcareconference.org.au.

The theme of the biennial conference is Collaborative Communities – Landcare in Action. The National Landcare Awards gala dinner on 22 September will feature 69 finalists vying for the 11 awards being presented for outstanding achievement in nine diverse categories, including Sustainable Farm Practices, Young Landcarer, and Indigenous Land Management.

The prestigious Bob Hawke Landcare Award will also be announced on the evening; the winner of which will receive a \$50,000 prize to foster a Landcare project. The popularly elected People's Choice Award offers the community the chance to vote online for the most inspirational Landcarer out of all the finalists, and will also be awarded on the night

Tessa Jakszewicz, Landcare Australia CEO, emphasised the importance of showcasing the accomplishments of Landcarers from all across the country and bringing new technological advancements to light.

"The full value of learning new ways to protect our environment and advance our agricultural practices will only be realised if it's shared among all of us," she said. "With this approach everyone can adopt new methods and techniques for their Landcare projects."

The Landcare community is also celebrating 30 years of Landcare in Victoria, where the movement formally began in late 1986. 30 years later, there are now over 5,400 groups all over the country, working on the uniting goal of sustainability and protecting our land and coastlines.

"Thirty years is a remarkable milestone and that's why we chose to hold the conference in Melbourne, as a way to honour the legacy of Landcare in the state," said Ms. Jakszewicz.

The conference, which had over 700 attendees in 2014, features workshops, panel discussions, and keynote speeches from General Major Michael Jeffrey and Don Burke. Jeffrey is a decorated military officer, patron of several not-for-profit organisations including Landcare Australia, former Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and was Australia's first-ever government-appointed Advocate for Soil Health. He will be bringing his many years of experience in government and Landcare and providing attendees with fresh insights, particularly in his area of specialty, soil regeneration.

Burke, the long-time host and award-winning producer of TV program and magazine Burke's Backyard, will share his thoughts about effective Landcare and revegetation methods that can adapt to a changing climate.

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





But the conference won't be all indoors – after all, the heart of the event is earth itself! Attendees will be going out on field trips organised across 11 regional sites and projects to experience local natural resource management first-hand across Victoria.

For National Landcare Awards and Conference updates in real-time, people can follow @LandcareAust on Twitter, like Landcare Australia on Facebook and tag #landcareconf16.

Voting for the People's Choice Award is open until 6pm (AEST) on Wednesday, 21 September and the winner will be announced at the gala dinner the following night on 22 September.

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

2016 National Landcare Awards nominees - ACT:

Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award – **Wendy Rainbird**

Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award – **John Starr, Gold Creek**

Australian Government Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator Award – **Martin Lind**

Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare Award – **The ACT Woodland Restoration Program**

Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award – **Mt Taylor ParkCare Group**

Indigenous Land Corporation Indigenous Landcare Award – **Wally Bell**

Junior Landcare Team Award – **Wanniassa Hills Primary School**

Manpower Young Landcare Leader Award – **Ian Rayner**

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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

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