

MEDIA RELEASE

20 years of sustainable farming pays off for Queensland's prestigious Bob Hawke Landcare Award winner

23 September: Esteemed Queensland conservationist and farmer, Stephen Burgess, won the coveted Bob Hawke Landcare Award at the 2016 National Landcare Awards in Melbourne last night.

Stephen Burgess was given the honour ahead of finalists Gwendolyn Adams from Tasmania and Glenn Morris from New South Wales, and was awarded \$50,000 to further develop his knowledge and skills in Landcare and sustainable land management practices.

The award acknowledges a person who has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to caring for the land; champions better land management practices; and gives their time to share knowledge with others so that they too can prosper.

Unfortunately, Stephen was unable to personally accept his award following recent open-heart surgery but his long-time friend, Glenda Pickergill, was there on his behalf.

"He's the most brilliant man, with knowledge and sharing and caring for his community," Glenda said. "I think it will be so special for him to be honoured for all the volunteer work that he's done. It's a wonderful thing at this stage in his life to be recognised for this. I think awards like this encourage, share, educate, and motivate others to follow in his footsteps."

Stephen has run Wurraglen Nature Refuge in Dagun, Queensland for nearly 20 years, developing the property which combines sustainable market farming and light grazing. His love of bushwalking around the country instilled a strong commitment to caring for the land and encourages 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.

Currently a part-time project officer at the Mary River Catchment Resource Centre and coordinator of the community Waterwatch program, Stephen has previously worked in Western Australia with the Department of Agriculture, where he developed a program called "NPDecide" which was widely adopted throughout the WA Wheatbelt. The program improves the efficiency of fertiliser use, reduces leaching losses, and introduces explicit consideration of soil organic nitrogen pools into fertilizer decisions.

According to the judges, Stephen's broad range of experience, his work to improve sustainable agriculture practices and his keenness to share his knowledge with others, demonstrate every aspect of the Landcare ethic.

The Bob Hawke Landcare Award was delivered by Landcare Australia for the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

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About Landcare Australia

Landcare Australia is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of all Australians actively caring for the land and water that sustain us. For over 25 years, Landcare Australia has worked collaboratively with federal, state and local governments, corporate partners and sponsors, and individuals, to build capacity for the Landcare community to better manage Australia's crucial land and water assets.

Landcare Australia delivers hundreds of projects annually through the volunteer efforts of local community groups, Indigenous groups, and the more than 5,400 Landcare and Coastcare groups that make up the Landcare movement.

www.landcareaustralia.org.au

Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award	Rhonda Williams, WA	Rhonda Williams sees Landcare and sustainable agriculture as being key to long term profitability and has hosted 20 field days and 30 trials on her farms.
Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award	Southampton Homestead WA	Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus are part of a leading trend in farming, taking responsibility for the growing and the processing of all food on their farm Southampton Homestead, selling their produce directly to the community.
Australian Government Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator Award	Jill Richardson, WA	Jill Richardson has spent 25 years dedicated to furthering Landcare in WA, leading significant on-ground environmental works and behavioural change in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation.
Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare Award	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. It is the largest network of Landcare groups in NSW.
Coastcare Award	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.
Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award	Blackwood Basin 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 over 500 farming families and delivering more than \$16million of Landcare activities throughout the iconic river basin.
Indigenous Land Management Award	Crocodile Islands Rangers NT	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

Junior Landcare Team Award	Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, NSW	Knowledge, to manage and protect their unique area. The Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre – Creative Catchment Kids program has grown over the past five years 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.
Manpower Young Landcare Leader Award	(tie) Naomi Edwards, QLD and Ella Maesepp, WA	Naomi Edwards is an instigator of progressive change when it comes to addressing environmental issues and is passionate about intergenerational engagement in Landcare. Ella Maesepp 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.
People’s Choice Award	Southampton Homestead WA	Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus are part of a leading trend in farming, taking responsibility for the growing and the processing of all food on their farm Southampton Homestead, selling their produce directly to the community.
Bob Hawke Landcare Award	Stephen Burgess, QLD	Stephen Burgess has run Wurraglen Nature Refuge in Dagon, Queensland for nearly 20 years, developing the property which combines sustainable market farming and light grazing. Stephen’s blend of biological and organic farming principles combined with holistic management practices demonstrate every aspect of the Landcare ethic.