



MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Landcare champions acs two wins at National Landcare Awards

23 September: Lake Macquarie Landcare and Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre featured among 12 winners at the 2016 National Landcare Awards, which took place last night at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre.

Burrumbuttock's Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre picked up the Yates Junior Landcare Team Award ahead of seven other impressive finalists from across the country, for its Creative Catchment Kids program which includes 60 schools Murray and Riverina schools.

Junior Landcarer Charlie Doig was proud and happy to have won. "It's so good, I'm really happy because it will probably promote more people to go to Wirraminna Environmental Centre to learn more about the environment."

Lake Macquarie Landcare is taking home the Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare Award for its work building successful working partnerships between its dedicated volunteers and Lake Macquarie Council. Lake Macquarie Landcare is the largest network of Landcare groups in New South Wales and works with almost 300 volunteer groups.

Carmel Brown, chair of the Lake Macquarie Landcare Network, was delighted to have won. "Landcare is based on volunteers, so to get recognised for volunteering is awesome. We only have one planet, and we care deeply," she said. "It means so much to the Landcarers to have that back-up from council, to know there's a team of experts there that can help us with the heavy stuff."

Landcare Australia CEO, Tessa Jakszewicz, commended the National Landcare Award winners on their outstanding achievements.

"It's an honour to be able to present these awards to champions within the Landcare community," Tessa says. "This biennial event allows us time to get together and celebrate all that we have achieved, and enables us to learn from each other's successes and failures. The hard work of Landcarers all across Australia deserves recognition and praise."

Winners across nine diverse categories from sustainable farm practices, to Junior Landcare, and Indigenous land management, were announced at the National Landcare Awards last night, which was hosted by ABC Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis and attended by Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Luke Hartsuyker MP, who presented the prestigious Bob Hawke Landcare Award.

The Awards are a key part of the National Landcare Conference, which finishes today, 23 September, and hosted over 600 Landcarers from across the country in Melbourne as Victoria celebrated 30 years of Landcare.

All finalist case studies and photos by category are available at nationallandcareconference.org.au/awards. The list of all the winners of the 2016 National Landcare Awards and highlights are on the next page.

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





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

2016 National Landcare Award Winners - NSW:

Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare Award - *Lake Macquarie Landcare (Lake Macquarie, 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 projects they work on involve preserving unique biodiversity, increasing wildlife habitats, promoting bushland regeneration, and reducing erosion and sedimentation. Many Lake Macquarie Landcare projects involve collaboration with local community groups, organisations, schools and residents.

Yates Junior Landcare Team Award - *Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre (Burrumbuttock, NSW)*

Over the past five years, the 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, cultural education, and pest management. The Creative Catchment Kids program is filling a large void in the area and schools are welcoming the support and encouragement to Landcare in a safe and enjoyable way.

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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.

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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. 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.
Coastcare Award	Coolum and District Coastcare, QLD	
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 Knowledge, to manage and protect their unique area.
Junior Landcare Team Award	Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, NSW	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

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Bob Hawke Landcare Award

Stephen Burgess, QLD

produce directly to the community.

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.

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