



MEDIA RELEASE

## Queensland coastal champions shine at National Landcare Awards

**23 September:** The Gold Coast's Naomi Edwards and Sunshine Coast's Coolum and District Coastcare came out on top at the 2016 National Landcare Awards, which took place at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre.

Innovative environmental advocate and co-founder of the national youth Landcare program, Intrepid Landcare, Naomi Edwards was co-winner of the Manpower Young Landcare Leader Award. Naomi spent a number of years building up the Gold Coast's Beachcare program and has facilitated over 500 Landcare activities and 300 school and community environmental education initiatives.

Naomi thinks winning the award will enable her to take her work to another level. "It's humbling. Landcare gives you the opportunity to be creative and protect the environment. As a creative person who loves the environment, Landcare gives me that outlet to have fun and be creative."

Coolum and District Coastcare beat seven other national finalists to win the Coastcare Award, for their work caring for the coastal environment on the Maroochy north shore of the Sunshine Coast and beyond. The volunteer-run organisation undertakes weeding, turtle monitoring and educational activities.

The group's president, Leigh Warneminde, was proud that the work of the Coastcare volunteers was being rewarded. "We live in a really beautiful place, and it has slowly been degrading and under pressure from the population. We want to retain the natural beauty so that future generations get to experience the same pleasures from nature that we do."

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](http://nationallandcareconference.org.au/awards). The list of all the winners of the 2016 National Landcare Awards and highlights are on the next page.

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

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

### **2016 National Landcare Award Winners - QLD:**

#### **Coastcare Award - *Coolum and District Coastcare* (Sunshine Coast, QLD)**

Since 2001, Coolum District Coast Care 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 run by volunteers, with a vast annual calendar of productive and creative activities and citizen science programs that effectively engage with all ages. Sixty residents are involved in the local weeding groups, and they run enthralling Eco Discovery workshops over school holidays that annually attract over 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. This year they are combining with other environmental groups to broaden community perspectives on a wide range of topics including; wetlands, rocks, Aboriginal culture and bushfood, bird and bat identification.

#### **Manpower Young Landcare Leader - *Naomi Edwards* (Gold Coast, QLD)**

*(Naomi tied with Ella Maesepp of WA for this award)*

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 Rowlatt to inspire young people to act and lead. This achievement builds on almost a decade of innovative Landcare initiatives such as building the brand for the award-winning BeachCare program, codesigning 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. Naomi's roots in Landcare stem from volunteering with her local Coastcare group where she discovered the need to bring personality and flair when engaging people in Landcare. She has since facilitated over 500 Landcare activities and 300 school and community environmental education sessions, bringing creativity to create headlines that turn heads to engage large numbers of people.

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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](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au)

<b>Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award</b>	<b>Rhonda Williams, WA</b>	<b>Rhonda Williams</b> sees Landcare and sustainable agriculture as being key to long term profitability and has hosted 20 field days and 30 trials on her farms.
<b>Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award</b>	<b>Southampton Homestead WA</b>	<b>Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus</b> 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.
<b>Australian Government Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator Award</b>	<b>Jill Richardson, WA</b>	<b>Jill Richardson</b> 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.
<b>Australian Government Partnerships with Landcare Award</b>	<b>Lake Macquarie Landcare NSW</b>	<b>Lake Macquarie Landcare</b> 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.
<b>Coastcare Award</b>	<b>Coolum and District Coastcare, QLD</b>	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.
<b>Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award</b>	<b>Blackwood Basin Group WA</b>	<b>The Blackwood Basin Group</b> 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.
<b>Indigenous Land Management Award</b>	<b>Crocodile Islands Rangers NT</b>	<b>The Rangers</b> 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.
<b>Junior Landcare Team Award</b>	<b>Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, NSW</b>	<b>The Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre</b> – 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.
<b>Manpower Young Landcare Leader Award</b>	(tie) <b>Naomi Edwards, QLD</b> and <b>Ella Maesepp, WA</b>	<b>Naomi Edwards</b> is an instigator of progressive change when it comes to addressing environmental issues and is passionate about intergenerational engagement in Landcare. <b>Ella Maesepp</b> has worked as a Landcare Officer in the Upper Blackwood area for 12 years, delivering millions of dollars' worth of

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<p><b>People's Choice Award</b></p> <p><b>Bob Hawke Landcare Award</b></p>	<p><b>Southampton Homestead</b> WA</p> <p><b>Stephen Burgess, QLD</b></p>	<p>projects to protect biodiversity, manage salinity, increase agricultural sustainability and reduce individual carbon footprints. <b>Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Stephen Burgess</b> 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.</p>
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