

## MEDIA RELEASE

28 May 2018

### **Hunter Valley schools get on track with Landcare projects**

Metford Public School and Hunter River Community School are two of 29 Hunter Valley schools receiving Junior Landcare grants from the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) this week.

The program invited Hunter Valley and regional NSW schools neighbouring the freight rail network to pitch their environmental ideas for funding. ARTC recently announced a total of nearly \$30,000 worth of funding would be provided to deliver the exciting school projects and promote safe rail behaviours.

Students at Metford Public School hope to see an increase in the range of local native fauna by planting a native food plant garden. Their garden will provide opportunities for students, teachers and the community to learn about native edible plants and Indigenous foods.

Hunter River Community School currently has 10 raised garden beds and a chook pen. They will be using their grant to rejuvenate all of the beds. As the school is for students with complex needs, they are planning a sensory garden that will be stimulating for the children.

The successful schools are spread across the Hunter Valley and regional NSW including Narrabri in the north, to Narromine and Dubbo in the south. A broad range of projects are being funded including veggie gardens, permaculture gardens, native gardens, worm farms, recycling projects and sensory gardens.

Landcare Partnership Manager, Adin Lang said, "Junior Landcare grants encourage young people to play an active role in ensuring the safe future of their environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to the land and other natural resources that they will inherit in future years ahead."

Wayne Johnson, ARTC's Group Executive Hunter Valley said the program also offers a great opportunity to encourage safe behaviours of students and parents around the busy railway. "We regularly have train drivers report trespass sightings of school students and we think initiatives like this provide an opportunity to open dialogue with schools and build respect for the railway."

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#### **About the ARTC**

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) owns and operates the Hunter Valley rail network which extends from Newcastle to Northstar and west to Dubbo. ARTC has a major focus on both community and rail safety. ARTC manages an 8,500km rail network across five states with a focus on maintaining the safe transit of freight and passenger trains daily.

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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. Visit [landcareaustralia.org.au](http://landcareaustralia.org.au) for more information

### For more information, please contact:

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### Full list of schools to be receive ARTC Junior Landcare Grants:

| School                               | Location           | Project type                                  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Blandford Public                     | Blandford          | Vegetable garden                              |
| Boggabri Public School               | Boggabri           | Native garden                                 |
| Branxton Public School               | Branxton           | Vegetable garden, Orchard                     |
| Carinya Christian School             | Carinya            | Composting                                    |
| Denman Public School                 | Denman             | Vegetable garden, native garden               |
| Dubbo South Public School            | Dubbo              | Bush Tucker Garden                            |
| East Maitland Public School          | East Maitland      | Composting, chicken coop                      |
| G S Kidd Memorial School             | Gunnedah           | Sensory garden                                |
| Gillieston Public School             | Gillieston Heights | Vegetable garden                              |
| Gunnedah South Public School         | Gunnedah           | Sensory Garden                                |
| Hunter River Community School        | Metford            | Sensory garden                                |
| M.E.T Campus                         | East Maitland      | Bush Tucker garden                            |
| Maitland Christian School            | Metford            | Recycling project                             |
| Metford Primary School               | Metford            | Bush Tucker garden                            |
| Mullaley Public School               | Mullaley           | Native garden                                 |
| Muswellbrook Public School           | Muswellbrook       | Sensory garden                                |
| Narrabri Public School               | Narrabri           | Propagation project                           |
| Narromine Christian School           | Narromine          | Vegetable garden, composting, Orchard project |
| Nillo Infants School                 | Lorn               | Sensory garden                                |
| Parkes Public School                 | Parkes             | Native garden                                 |
| Peak Hill Central School             | Peak Hill          | Worm farm, Vegetable garden                   |
| Rosary Park Catholic School          | Branxton           | Vegetable garden                              |
| Sandy Hollow                         | Sandy Hollow       | Native garden                                 |
| St Catherine's Catholic College      | Singleton          | Frog pond, Native garden                      |
| St Mary's Primary School Dubbo       | Dubbo              | Citrus orchard                                |
| St Mary's Primary School, Scone      | Scone              | Dry Creek bed garden                          |
| St Michael's Catholic Primary School | Dunedoo            | Native garden                                 |
| Werris Creek Public School           | Werris Creek       | Native garden                                 |



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| Willow Tree Public School | Willow Tree, NSW | Vegetable Garden |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|