



# 2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Landcare community celebrates national champions at Landcare Awards

**12 October:** Eleven winning Landcare projects were announced last night at the National Landcare Awards in Brisbane, where 600 Landcarers from across the country came together to celebrate impressive achievements in the Landcare community.

Last night's gala dinner saw award winners from diverse categories, including sustainable farm practices, Coastcare, young Landcare leader, and Indigenous land management. The prestigious Bob Hawke Landcare Award which is presented with a \$50,000 prize was won by New South Wales biodynamic farmer and grazier Charlie Arnott, who practices regenerative and holistic principles on his 5000 acre mixed farming property, Hanaminno, at Boorowa.

Clean4Shore won the coveted People's Choice Award. Clean4Shore which engages community, school, disability, indigenous and business groups in the removal of plastic and polystyrene around the Hawkesbury River, Brisbane Waters and Tuggerah Lakes, was the favoured of all 65 national finalists by receiving the most votes from the Australian public in an online poll in the lead-up to last night's award ceremony.

Graham Johnson was very excited to win this esteemed award. "I'm very proud that Landcarers have voted for litter management. I have a great support group from my Facebook page, and from people that follow our program and are willing to get out there and do something about the litter in our waterways," Graham said. "So for us this is a pretty big achievement. It makes it all worthwhile."

The awards are part of the three-day biennial National Landcare Conference that was held in Brisbane this year, honouring the state as the birthplace of the national Landcare movement 30 years ago.

ABC Landline host, Pip Courtney took the stage as MC, and former Governor General, Major General the Hon. Michael Jeffery presented the four Australian Government awards to the deserving project winners.

Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish, commended the National Landcare winners on their outstanding accomplishments.

"It's an honour to be able to recognise the great work being carried out by our Landcare champions," Shane says. "The national Landcare awards offers landcarers the ideal opportunity to get together and celebrate the individual and collective achievements of the community. Landcarers across Australia deserve to be acknowledged and praised".

All finalist case studies and photos by category are available at [nationallandcareconference.org.au/awards](http://nationallandcareconference.org.au/awards).

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





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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)

### **Full List of National Landcare Award winners**

#### ***Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award***

**David Marsh, NSW**

David is acknowledged for alerting primary producers to the fact that a healthy catchment and long-term profitability go hand in hand. He was pivotal in the early establishment of the Landcare movement, and David's property Allendale has long been a proving ground for sympathetic land management.

#### ***Australian Government Innovation in Agriculture Land Management Award***

**Wandooon Estate Aboriginal Corporation, Vic**

Wandooon Estate Aboriginal Corporation represents the Wurundjeri people, the Indigenous owners of the historical property "Coranderrk" in the Yarra Valley. Through partnerships with *Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority*, Wurundjeri Council's Narrap Team, Yarra4Life project and its partners, Melbourne Water, and volunteer group - Friends of Coranderrk, Wandooon Estate's sustainable farming practices have delivered outstanding examples of productive beef cattle grazing, habitat restoration, and waterway management and protection.

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***Australian Government Innovation in Agriculture Land Management Award***  
**Precision Pastoral, NT**

Precision Pastoral developed pastoral management tools that help farmers integrate animal and pasture data, linking livestock performance to environmental conditions for more efficient pastoral management. Farmers making decisions about stocking rates or land management have used the Precision Pastoral Management Tools to give them a better understanding of groundcover trends and animal condition, as well as to reduce their monitoring costs.

***Australian Government Excellence in Sustainable Farm Practices Award***  
**Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc, QLD**

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group was founded to improve water quality in the Baroon Pocket Dam, the most important source of water for the Sunshine Coast. The Group which supports 34 farms covering 1,961 hectares, delivers; agricultural, landslide, weed control, and dairy programs that have improved productivity for landowners while delivering broader environmental benefits.

***Austcover Young Landcare Leader Award***  
**Kathleen Brack, VIC**

Keen to attract more young people to Landcare, Kathleen ran an Intrepid Landcare Retreat at Wilsons Promontory for 20 people aged 18 to 35. Kathleen targets younger people through her effective use of technology and social media, including using Facebook to create an online network of young people interested in Landcare in West Gippsland, where followers are able to share job opportunities, information on relevant field days, and feature case studies highlighting their concerns and barriers to adaptation.

***Fairfax Media Landcare Community Group Award***  
**Birdlife Australia Gluepot Reserve SA**

BirdLife Australia Gluepot Reserve is Australia's largest community managed and operated conservation reserve. Situated 64 km from the River Murray in South Australia's Riverland, the reserve is managed and operated entirely by volunteers. Some 54,000 hectares in size, it is home to 22 nationally threatened species of birds, 53 species of reptiles and 12 species of bats, some of which are nationally threatened.

***Rio Tinto Indigenous Land Management Award***  
**Spinifex Land Management, WA**

The Spinifex Land Management Program is a collaboration between an Indigenous ranger team and the local community to provide direction, technical support and resources in the management of the northern fringes of the Nullarbor Plain and deep within the Great Victoria Desert. Based in Tjuntjuntjara, the second most remote community in Australia, patrolling the region is a logistical feat and an adventure on country requiring careful planning to ensure appropriate cultural and ecological outcomes and the safety of participants.

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## ***Sure Gro Treemax Coastcare Award***

**Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group Inc, SA**

Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group aims to protect and rehabilitate saltmarsh areas, with a focus on reconnecting waterways. The Murray Mouth Estuary Restoration Project has been the Group's major restoration project since 2001. Seventeen years later, 500,000 plants have been planted on over 100 sites. Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group's work in increasing habitat connectivity, propagating local species, and mitigating erosion via fencing and strategic plantings has achieved long-term benefits for local flora, fauna, native fish, and invertebrates.

## ***Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award***

**Mount Compass Area School Swamp Ambassadors, SA**

Mount Compass Area School's Swamp Ambassadors are a student-led environmental program where students are the custodians of the school's critically endangered Fleurieu swamp. The students worked hard to change the perception of the swamps, through partnerships with Fleurieu Swamps Recovery Program and undertook leadership and guide training to effectively share their knowledge and promote the importance of Fleurieu swamps in an engaging way.

## ***People's Choice Award***

**Clean4Shore, NSW**

Clean4Shore leads up to 70 field trips a year, engaging the community, schools, disability, indigenous and business groups in the removal of plastic and polystyrene around the Hawkesbury River, Brisbane Waters and Tuggerah Lakes in New South Wales. Volunteer groups led by Clean4Shore remove garbage from waterways while simultaneously educating themselves about the Central Coast foreshores and mangroves.

## ***Bob Hawke Landcare Award***

**Charlie Arnott, NSW**

Charlie is a biodynamic farmer and grazier, who practices; regenerative farming, organic, biodynamic and holistic grazing principles on his 5000 acre mixed farming property, Hanaminno, at Boorowa, NSW. Charlie has won several agricultural industry awards for leadership, resource management and conservation. He has been an active Landcarer since the inception of the Landcare movement in 1989, with previous roles in all levels of Landcare, from district groups to the Sustainable Farming ambassador for Landcare Australia. He is passionate about growing clean healthy meat, which he sells direct to customers and butchers under his brand Charlie Arnott Natural Grass Fed Meat.

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