



MAY 2022

LANDCARE IN FOCUS



**Landcare champion and Junior Landcare ambassador, Costa Georgiadis
Brings together in-person and online delegates at the 2022 National Landcare Conference**



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Contact our editorial team with your article or content idea by emailing digital@landcareaustralia.com.au

*Due to space restrictions some article content may be edited. We also cannot guarantee that all submissions will be published.

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Cover Photo: **Landcare champion and Junior Landcare Ambassador Costa Georgiadis.**
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Landcare Australia is proud to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which we live and work. We value and respect their deep and continued spiritual and cultural connections to the land, waters, seas and sky, and pay our respects to their Ancestors and Elders past, present and future.

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THE CLIMATE FOR CHANGE: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF LANDCARE

**DR SHANE NORRISH,
CEO LANDCARE AUSTRALIA**

Over 30 years ago, landcare was formed by a union of farmers and conservationists to address degradation of natural assets. Yet with ongoing climate change induced natural disasters impacting much of Australia, I have been reflecting on how recently our movement has taken on a new dimension.

These past years we have experienced devastating drought, bushfires and catastrophic floods, and while many of us are still reeling from the impacts, the incredible response to these disasters from thousands of volunteers and groups

across Australia has shown that landcare is not only critical for environmental protection, it is now central to local recovery and resilience building.

From a Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Project bringing together schools, landcarers, landholders, ecologists and Traditional Owners to protect fire affected bird life, to a WIRES Landcare Wildlife Relief and Recovery project empowering citizen scientists to investigate long term impacts of disasters on Platypus – the breadth of landcare work within communities

across our country continues to expand. Together we are showcasing the value of local experience and motivation in caring for our country, and demonstrating to Australia that not only are we future focused, but we are in it for the long haul.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce the newest members of our Board of Directors: Naomi Edwards, Ricky Archer, James Walker and Anna Hooper. Their expertise, particularly related to the youth, Indigenous and agricultural sectors, will help broaden our engagement and reach within the

landcare movement, and allow us build a more dynamic future for key landcare communities.

While it is certain there will be more challenges ahead, with the support of our new Directors and all of the incredible landcare volunteers, I know that the landcare movement will continue to grow, to overcome natural disasters, and to be the champions of a sustainable future for Australia.



Photo credit Ian Quinn
Landscapes Officer Eyre Peninsula
Landscape Board

LANDCARE FLASHBACK: DAKALANTA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

In 2018, the landmark Dakalanta Revegetation Project came to completion at Dakalanta Wildlife Sanctuary on the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. Previously farming land, the southern area of the sanctuary was severely degraded by over clearing and prolonged stock grazing, and in desperate need of regeneration.

As part of the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Program, the three-year project was delivered by Landcare Australia in partnership with Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) and WildEyre. It involved 2380 kilometres of direct seeding, planting of over 50 locally-sourced native plant species, and revegetating of 1190 hectares of cleared land.

Together local communities, farmers and landcare groups, worked with Traditional Owners to collect 1.2 tonnes of seed and establish over two million trees, shrubs and groundcovers on the site. Now, the green corridors provide habitat, dispersal and food availability for regional and nationally threatened species including Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats, Western Pygmy Possums and Little Long-tailed Dunnarts.

Reflecting on the impact of the project, Landcare Australia's Head of Landcare Services, James Walsh, said that the Dakalanta Revegetation Project highlighted Landcare Australia's ability to integrate the community into the delivery of complex and challenging large scale restoration projects.

"This project was delivered across a large and challenging site, with particularly tough conditions, but using a whole-of-community approach we were able to go above and beyond expectations to deliver a fantastic ecological outcome," said Mr Walsh.

"By working in partnership with land owners, local communities and Traditional Owners towards a common goal, we were able to deploy a science-based and landscape-scale approach to direct seeding revegetation along with comprehensive pest and weed management to achieve this exceptional result."

The Dakalanta Revegetation Project exceed its overall target number of native plants by 1.5 million, and revegetation site is now serving as a living seed bank, helping to further support local revegetation projects in the region through providing an abundant source of local native seed.



Celebrating Landcare and recognising individual excellence in sustainable agriculture.

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For more information please visit www.bobhawkelandcareaward.com.au

Photo: Francois Peron National Park coastline, Shark Bay World Heritage Area. Courtesy: Chris Curnow Rangelands NRM



PROTECTING A GLOBAL ASSET THROUGH RESTORATION OF THE WA RANGELANDS

At the junction of Western Australia's remote north-west coastline and the Indian Ocean, lies two significant World Heritage listed areas. The Ningaloo Coast, Australia's largest fringing coral reef system is over 260 km long, and beside it, Shark Bay World Heritage Area, encompassing 2.2 million hectares, on the most western point of Australia's mainland.

Both World Heritage Areas (WHA) were selected by UNESCO as being internationally important, in 1991 (Shark Bay) and 2011 (Ningaloo). Their outstanding universal values include exceptional natural habitats and wildlife,

representation of ancient evolutionary processes, incredible natural beauty and culturally diverse sites. While these areas are the showpieces, they are intrinsically linked with adjacent land systems, consisting of arid environments of interconnected sand dunes and ancient river drainage systems, stretching hundreds of kilometres inland.

Like many marine ecosystems globally, Ningaloo Coast and Shark Bay WHA, face increasing threats from climate change, invasive species, land erosion, land-use competition, social and cultural disconnect. Rangelands Natural Resource Management WA (RNRM), in partnership with Traditional Owners, pastoralists

and other land and sea managers, are working to manage and restore these fragile ecosystems, as part of the National Landcare Program (NLP).

Working in a remote location is always challenging. On-ground presence, collaboration with stakeholders and decision makers, increased support for activities, events, and community projects, are crucial in helping RNRM to make considerable progress towards protecting these WHAs and empowering the community to assist. Now in its fourth year, the program has controlled pest animals across >285,000 hectares; removed invasive weed species across >33,000 hectares; rehabilitated sand

dunes, re-built natural drainage lines, and reduced landscape-scale erosion and excess sediment flow into the reef.

This program contributes to the overall health and productivity of the wider region by assisting to build environmental and social resilience, through support of the natural wonders of the WHAs and protecting vulnerable and complex marine ecosystems, like nesting turtle populations, seagrass meadows and coral reef gardens, for the future.

For more information please contact: rangelandswa.com.au/projects/finding-common-ground-to-protect-ningaloo-coast-world-heritage-area

STUDENTS FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY AT KAPOOKA PUBLIC SCHOOL



Students at Wagga Wagga's Kapooka Public School in New South Wales recently had the opportunity to plan, plant and nourish a new veggie garden thanks to a grant from the Woolworths Junior Landcare Program.

When the school's veggie garden was moved due to the installation of additional classroom demountables, there was keen interest in restoring the garden so that all students could be part of the hands-on learning experience.

The keen students got involved in the planning and planting out of the various veggie patches. They readily absorbed the educational concepts, including the vital role bees play in ensuring the plants grow and thrive, and that flowering plants are necessary to support the bees. Their knowledge of sustainability issues was increased; for example, learning that fruit waste can be turned into compost for the garden and could also be used in the school's bird feeders to nourish feathered friends.

The students enjoyed planting, and anticipating what they would be able to eat from their garden, as well as considering how the flowers would look. Importantly, the students also gleaned

information about healthy eating through caring for their veggie garden.

The garden has improved habitat for animals and insects and resulted in a significant reduction of food waste. Compost created from the fruit waste from the school's morning fruit breaks has enriched the garden's soil quality.

Living sustainably by growing your own food and recycling waste were important concepts enthusiastically embraced by the students. The veggie garden is now being cared for by the school gardener and student garden club members, and project concepts have been incorporated into various classroom activities.

If you are an educator, landcare group or landcare facilitator working with your local school, or you may be a parent or carer at home, don't miss what's next with Junior Landcare! This Spring, Junior Landcare ambassador Costa Georgiadis will launch a campaign to encourage kids to explore the biodiversity in their community. Plus, there are new First Nations perspectives learning activities in the Junior Landcare Learning Centre.

For more information please visit: juniorlandcare.org.au

HELPING FARMERS TAKE UP CARBON SEQUESTRATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The practice of carbon sequestration is gaining momentum in Australia, and three environmental organisations have joined forces to help farmers start capturing and storing carbon.

The Gillamii Centre, North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources and Threshold Environment developed a partnership to empower farmers to rehabilitate marginal land, diversify income and conserve biodiversity.

Known as the Community, Carbon and Conservation Project, this initiative focuses on sequestration through biodiverse native plantings, with an emphasis on grassroots collaboration.

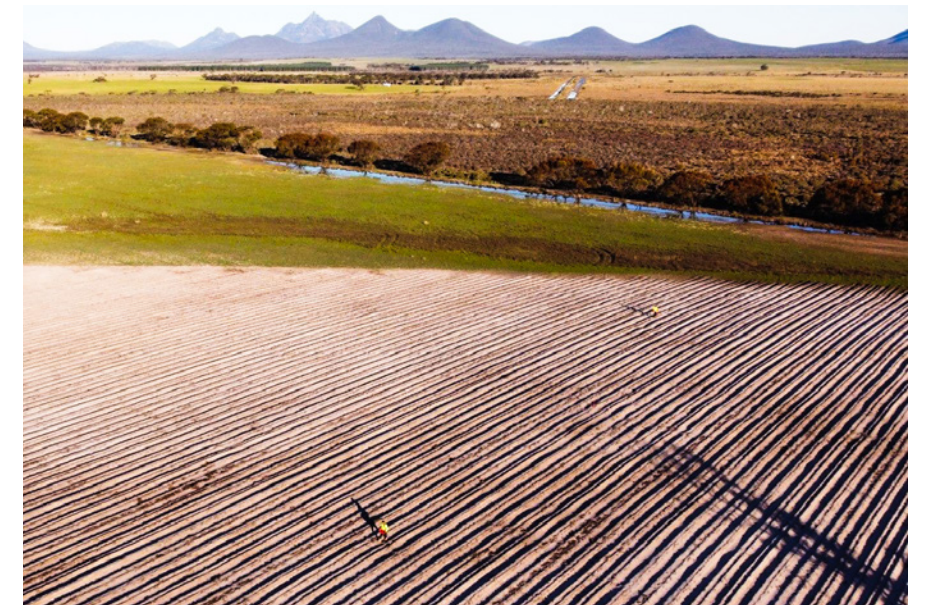
Working with a group of progressive farmers in Western Australia, the project is restoring 550 hectares of marginal land through biodiverse carbon plantings and the installation of 55 kilometres of protective fencing.

As the first year of the project reaches completion, a key learning is the complexity involved and the need for community involvement in both the development and establishment phase of projects. Each farmer has different motivations and goals that need careful consideration.

The project has also highlighted the need for increased industry education and awareness in regional communities.

Competition among carbon service providers is strong, which means landholders have a range of options available to consider. Understanding the drivers of demand, limitations on supply and the associated risk is as important when making carbon farming decisions as it is within grain and livestock markets.

For farmers conserving carbon sequestration, it is important to understand the difference between generating carbon credits to offset



industry emissions or generating credits for future on-farm offsets. Farmers who use their land to offset for a polluting entity cannot also use the land to offset their own on-farm emissions.

The Community, Carbon and Conservation Project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management Program and Threshold

Environmental. This project is a collaboration between the Gillamii Centre, North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources and Threshold Environmental. The project also acknowledges the commitment and involvement from all partner landholders.

For more information, visit: gillamii.org.au

FARM DAM RESTORATION PROJECT LAUNCHED

Landcare Australia and the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation (CCAF) have launched Farm Dam Restoration, a three-year community program restoring degraded farm dams to increase water security and restore ecological function.

The project aims to enhance the poor condition of many farm dams across Australia - many being polluted, bare and devoid of native flora and fauna. However, a recent study by the Australian National University has shown that when carefully managed, enhanced farm dams can help restore biodiversity by providing critical wetland habitats for native wildlife.

For Phase 1 of the project, three South Australian sites have been identified, providing an initial showcase of how degraded farm dams can be transformed into thriving ecological communities while also improving on-farm productivity.

Project participant, Strathalbyn grazier Jack Booth, said the restoration of farm dams is essential for improving farming resilience

and the long-term sustainability of Australian agriculture.

"Any Australian farmer will tell you that our success relies heavily on water security. We work in a variable environment - from drought to floods we've seen it all, and we need to be taking all steps possible to ensure our land is productive and resilient, no matter the challenge," said Mr Booth.

"I'm excited to join the Farm Dam Restoration project, not only to help set the standard for sustainable farming in Australia, but to inspire farmers like myself to reap the benefits of investing in the rehabilitation of their own farm dams. Australian farmers and the agriculture industry manage the vast majority of land in Australia, it's important that we're hitting the mark when it comes to managing all water catchments in our care."

The CCAF will provide a grant of \$600,000 over the lifetime of the project, with Landcare Australia partnering with local Landcare and community groups to establish demonstration sites across three states.



Landcare's online shop OFFERS 'CAP'-TIVATING WARES

Landcare Australia has partnered with promotional company Your Brand Unleashed to offer Landcare groups an online shop for purchasing colourful Landcare branded caps at reasonable prices.

Groups can purchase the caps for themselves, or buy in bulk for their volunteers and local Landcare supporters. There are 'Landcare,' 'Coastcare' and 'Junior Landcare' branded caps available, all of which are comfortable to wear and easy to wash.

The clay-coloured Landcare branded cap has the logo

embroidered in black. The Coastcare (electric blue) and Junior Landcare (cherry red) caps feature their logos embroidered in white.

To keep prices reasonable for Landcarers, Landcare Australia is underwriting the purchase of stock, and won't make any profit from the sale of products sold in the online store.

To buy a cap, please visit Your Brand Unleashed at your-brand-unleashed.myshopify.com. You can also purchase or obtain more information by calling the company on (03) 9738 0879.

TUNE INTO LANDCARE WEBINARS

Did you know there is a free Landcare webinar series? It's a great way to tap into the latest information about the environment, sustainability and natural resource management issues.

"The Landcare Webinar Series is the ideal platform to showcase the rich diversity of knowledge, passion and expertise found in the Landcarer network," said James Link, Landcare Australia's Head of Partnerships.

"Faced with extraordinary conditions, including bushfires, drought, floods, and an ongoing pandemic over the last couple of years, this series has facilitated enduring and innovative connectivity within the Landcare network, which is at the heart of the Landcare ethos, and we have had some truly brilliant learning sessions," he added.

Over the last year, Landcare Australia has organised webinars on a diverse range of topics, including women working in Landcare, soil health with the finalists of the General Jeffery Soil Health Award, research into Australian attitudes towards climate change, working with Traditional Owners on the land, Australian beef and sheep sustainability, and Landcare work in other countries.

If you have a webinar topic to suggest, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us with your ideas at enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au

If you're busy on the day of a webinar you can always tune in at another time as all webinars are posted on the Landcarer website. **You can register for the series via the Landcare Australia website here: landcareaustralia.org.au/webinars**



LANDCARE SMART FARM - NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING PROJECT

JIM RADFORD, PRINCIPLE RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR FUTURE LANDSCAPES
SUE OGILVY, RESEARCHER AND PRACTITIONER IN NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING

LANDCARE
WEBINAR
SERIES

FIRE AND WATER: HEALING COUNTRY AND PEOPLE AIRS ON THE BBC

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) recently broadcast excerpts from a Landcare Australia film about Traditional Owners and cultural burning practices in Australia.

The two radio programs and short film included interviews with Victor Steffensen, a descendant of the Tagalaka people and Indigenous fire practitioner, explaining how cultural burns can help manage the land while reducing fuel load and destructive wildfires.

Audio from the film *Fire and Water, Healing Country and People*, produced for the 2021 National Conference, was used by the BBC Radio Four program, *39 Ways to Save the Planet*, for a story on the importance of local wisdom. Tom Heap, the program's presenter, asked his audience to consider if valuing and applying the knowledge of Indigenous people and groups could help in the fight against climate change.

Meanwhile, the BBC World Service program, *People Fixing the World* used audio clips from the film featuring Victor Steffensen talking about his fire and land management techniques. This show, which reaches an audience of around 12 million, focuses on people with innovative ideas to solve big problems.

More recently, footage from *Fire and Water: Healing Country and People* was included in a short production about cultural burning practices in Australia. This film was part of a series of short films produced by BBC Earth for its social media channels.

The film was first seen shown in its entirety at the 2021 National Landcare Conference at a cultural land management panel that discussed integrating Indigenous perspectives for better land management.

Haven't seen it? Head to Landcare Australia's YouTube channel or [youtube.com/user/LandcareEducation](https://www.youtube.com/user/LandcareEducation)



Pictured: Victor Steffensen and Barry Hunter

VICTORIAN LANDCARERS SPREAD THEIR WINGS WITH THE LAUNCH OF PHASE 2 OF THE EAST GIPPSLAND NEST BOX PROJECT

Funded by the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grant program, Phase 2 of the landmark East Gippsland Nest Box Project (EGNBP) is off to a fantastic start with the project already doubling in size, seeing more than 500 new nest boxes constructed and installed, and over 400 next box surveys carried out.

"We've already had incredibly promising results with a variety of native species being observed including Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, Lorikeets, Galahs and Krefft's Glider families," said BirdLife Australia Project Lead, Sam Monks. "Over time, we're hopeful we'll see these nest boxes provide habitat for threatened species including Mountain Pygmy-possums, Greater Gliders and Turquoise Parrots."

With Phase 2 of the project taking a whole-of-community approach, Landcare project partners including Far East Victoria Landcare, East Gippsland Landcare Network and Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee have been engaging with local residents and landholders, launching education activities, constructing nest boxes and undertaking monitoring surveys.

Central to the success of the project has been the partnership with Gunaikurnai

Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, who along with Bug Blitz Trust, Men and Women Sheds Victoria, and volunteers from over 100 Victorian schools, have been demonstrating the ongoing community commitment to Landcare-led bushfire recovery activities.

By working in partnership with Landcare, BirdLife Australia's East Gippsland Nest Box Project has built community resilience and fostered connections, allowing fire-affected communities to work together in taking practical action to restore the environment," said Landcare Victoria CEO, Andrew Maclean. "The diversity of work within this project, including school students writing personalised messages to animals and people affected by the devastating Black Summer bushfires on nest boxes, and Traditional Owners providing their expert knowledge and guidance to the wider community, would not be possible without the whole-of-community approach."

The over \$406,000 in funding provided by the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grant has also contributed to BirdLife Australia's innovative new Nest Box/Hollow Monitoring module. Currently in its pilot phase, the portal will support the ongoing work of citizen scientists in implementing long-term monitoring and research protocols.

"The new module will allow us to collect the results of monitoring for birds and other animals that are residing within natural hollows, augmented hollows and nest boxes using specialised survey methods," said Ms Monks.

The module incorporates a range of new survey information such as specific nest box details including tree species, height, aspect, design, and target bird and mammal species. It is hoped that the valuable information gathered through the portal will assist future breeding programs and disaster recovery efforts nationally.

The East Gippsland Nest Box Project (EGNBP) aims to analyse the effectiveness of nest boxes as a response to the decline in the availability of natural hollows for nesting following bushfire events. Funded by the Australian Government under the \$14 million Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants, it is one of the 111 projects supporting regions impacted by the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20.

Read more about the East Gippsland Nest Box Project here: birdlife.org.au/projects/woodland-birds-for-biodiversity/egnbp

Read more about the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants program here: landcareledbushfiregrants.org.au



Photos by Annette Ruzicka.

Landcarers Rewarded

FOR MAKING REAL CHANGE IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS AUSTRALIA



The inaugural National Landcare Awards event was hosted on March 20 1991 at the Great Hall in Parliament House, Canberra. The National Landcare Awards was first launched by the Landcare Australia Board in the 1990's Decade of Landcare to reward outstanding achievements of landcare throughout Australia. Landcare has come a long way over the last 30 years, with many hundreds of people recipients of Landcare Awards and recognised for their conservation efforts.

Over the last 18 months, hundreds of people have come together to participate in the 2021 State and Territory Landcare Awards program in their regions. COVID

has had an impact on people coming together to attend local events, however the significant contribution from Landcare Award organisers has helped Landcarers connect with each other and celebrate the diversity and vibrancy of landcare in communities across Australia.

From farmers to First Nations organisations, landcare groups to Junior Landcare schools, to volunteers and the next generation of landcare leaders, over 60 finalists will converge on Sydney for the announcement of the winners of eight national Landcare Award categories. They include: Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award; Australian

Government Partnerships for Landcare Award; Australian Government Landcare Farming Award; Coastcare Award; ACM Landcare Community Group Award; KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award; Steadfast Young Landcare Leadership Award and the Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award.

Andrea Salmond from Katanning Landcare spoke about her group's win of the West Australian ACM Landcare Community Group Award. 'It's a proud moment for us, and humbling, to be recognised by our peers for the efforts and hard work of our group, which has been tackling a wide range of environmental issues for the last 32 years. From erosion,

to salinity, to revegetation and habitat protection, to waste reduction and behaviour change, our team of volunteers are dedicated to making the world a better place to live. This award is an opportunity to celebrate how far we've come and the impact we've made and will energise us to keep putting in the effort'.

The 2022 National Landcare Awards will be hosted on Wednesday 24 August at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. Gala dinner tickets will go on sale in June. Pictured are just a few of the 2021 State & Territory Landcare Award recipients going forward as finalists in the 2022 National Landcare Awards.



PLATYPUS AMONG 50+ THREATENED SPECIES TO BENEFIT FROM LANDMARK WILDLIFE RECOVERY PROGRAM

Over 5000 landcare heroes from across Australia have wrapped up their projects for the WIRES Landcare Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants Program – one of the largest donation-driven wildlife grants programs in Australia.

Launched in April 2020, the program provided \$1.185 million to 49 bushfire recovery projects and 15 drought resilience projects, implemented by 64 landcare groups across the country. Combined, the projects saw almost 100,000 plants established, over 1,900 nest boxes installed and 435 biodiversity surveys carried out.

One of the program's standout projects was undertaken in Gippsland, Victoria, where more than 1 million hectares of land burned in in the Black Summer Bushfires. Concerned about the impacts on platypus populations in their area, the East Gippsland Landcare Network worked with Wildlife Ecologist Josh

Griffiths and EnviroDNA to investigate the long-term repercussions of the fires. 65 landcarers were given online training to undertake research over 100 sites in the area, collecting water samples to test for platypus DNA in creeks, wetlands and rivers.

“Being involved in this groundbreaking project and contributing to the long-term protection and recovery of one of our most iconic species was a fantastic opportunity to bring our local landcare community together,” said Caroline McGuinn, East Gippsland Landcare Network Facilitator.

“The impact of the fires in our area was devastating. Many community members were terribly concerned about the effect the volume of debris in our waterways would have on platypus. It turns out our fears were well founded.”

The group found 9 months after the fires there was a reduction in the number of



EnviroDNA Wildlife Ecologist Josh Griffiths collects water samples for WIRES Landcare Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants project

sites occupied by platypuses in burnt areas. 16 months on, site occupancy was still declining, indicating the profound, long-term impacts of bushfires on platypus populations.

The project contributed to a larger study on platypus across South-East Australia

and remains the only project on bushfire impacts on platypus populations to include substantial pre-fire data from an identical area.

For more information visit wires.org.au/landcare-program



Conference MC Costa Georgiadis



Keynote speaker Professor Mark Howden



LANDCARE AUSTRALIA RECEIVES UN DAY HONOUR

Landcare Australia was delighted to receive a 2021 United Nations Day Honour from the United Nations Association of Australia NSW (UNAA NSW), on UN Day in October last year.

The UN Day Honour recognises individuals or organisations in Australia that have made a significant contribution to the UN's mission, which includes making the world safer, fairer and more sustainable.

The honour came in the first year of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,

where special consideration was given to nominees with impressive track records in ecosystem restoration and biodiversity protection.

In a communiqué, UNAA (NSW) highlighted Landcare Australia's work in community engagement and cooperation in caring for the land, the strength of its partnership program, as well as its many relief and recovery projects in bushfire and drought-affected regions.

“I am delighted to recognise Landcare Australia as the recipient of our 2021

UN Day Honour. Their contribution to protecting and restoring our precious environment has been significant and enduring and an exemplar of working in partnership to achieve the aims and objectives of the United Nations in this important area,” said Dr Patricia Jenkins, President UNAA (NSW).

Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish, said the organisation's board and staff were proud to receive the honour on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Landcare volunteers who work hard to restore and protect Australia's natural assets.

“We see their magnificent achievements right across Australia, but we have so much more to do. I strongly encourage all Australians to become involved in the outstanding work of their local community Landcare group in this UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration,” he said.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, Landcare Australia will receive the honour from UNAA NSW at a formal in-person event this year at NSW Parliament House.



THE POWER OF LANDCARE: CONFERENCE SPEAKERS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LANDCARE AT THE 2022 NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE

Last year the 2021 National Landcare Conference and National Landcare Awards were impacted by the global pandemic, with the event moving online. Over 3,000 people registered to attend, and although Landcarers could not meet in person, the conversations and connections made online contributed to a hugely successful event for both speakers and delegates alike.

This year will see an in-person event for the first time since 2018, and the Conference Steering Committee is planning to make it a memorable occasion for everyone. The theme for the 2022 National Landcare Conference is Power of Landcare | Shaping Our Future affirming the importance of looking to the future when discussing the issues and opportunities for Landcare.

Landcare Australia Chief Executive Officer, Dr Shane Norrish, understands there is a demand from individuals, groups and organisations involved in landcare for opportunities to come together to share knowledge and learn from each other.

“We recognise that some people may not feel comfortable travelling to Sydney as a speaker or delegate, so it will be a hybrid event, allowing people to attend in person or online. With the online format we have the opportunity to involve more people than in previous events, from those in remote and regional areas of Australia, to countries involved in Global Landcare.”

The 2022 National Landcare Conference provides a unique forum for Landcarers and people involved in natural resource management to explore best practice and innovation, share information and stories, create connections and take new ideas back to their workplaces and communities.

Speakers will talk to how can landcare be part of the solution for many topical issues including emerging environmental markets, environment and climate change, community wellbeing, soil health and First Nations perspectives.

The keynote speaker for 2022 National Landcare Conference is Professor Mark Howden, Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions at The Australian National University.

Mark has worked on climate variability, climate change, innovation and adoption issues for over 30 years in partnership with many industry, community and policy groups via both research and science-policy roles.

Hosted by Landcare champion and ABC TV presenter Costa Georgiadis, the program will feature field trips to the Greater Sydney region, and over 60 stream speakers who will present on the topics of Landcare Farming and Emerging Environmental Markets, Environment and Climate Change, Community Partnerships in Action, Landcare Impact, Urban Landcare and First Nations.

All sessions will be recorded and videos made available on the Landcare Australia website, so even if you miss a session you can catch up afterwards.

The National Landcare Awards event will take place at the International Convention Centre and include the presentations of the 2022 Bob Hawke Landcare Award and the 2022 General Jeffery Soil Health Award. This awards event is a special opportunity

to acknowledge and celebrate the many thousands of volunteers and their contribution to caring for their environment in their local community. The national winners will be announced for the Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award, Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award, Australian Government Landcare Farming Award, Coastcare Award, Australian Community Media Landcare Community Group Award, KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award, Steadfast Young Landcare Leadership Award and the Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award.

Join us at the 2022 National Landcare Conference and National Landcare Awards events, and be part of shaping the future of landcare. Early bird conference tickets will open in June. All online delegate registrations are free.

The 2022 National Landcare Conference will take place at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, from Tuesday 23 to Thursday 25 August, 2022. The National Landcare Awards will take place on Wednesday 24 August, 2022. The 2022 National Landcare Conference and Awards event is made possible due to the support of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

For more information please visit nationallandcareconference.org.au



NEW INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITY FOR SALT AFFECT FARMERS

BY ELLA MAESEPP Landcare Officer, Katanning Landcare.

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. But when life gives you salinity.... Grow saline bush foods!

Salinity impacts productive agricultural land across southern Australia, making land unsuitable for traditional grain crops, changing capacity for grazing, and with detrimental effects on the environment.

In Katanning, WA, a group of Landcarers has been working since 2017 to turn this saline land into the prime growing environment for a high-value gourmet food crop, creating economic opportunities for farmers, diversifying rural commodities and helping restore degraded land at the same time.

The Saline Bush Foods project, funded by the Australian Governments National Landcare Program Smart Farming Partnerships, aimed to see if plants

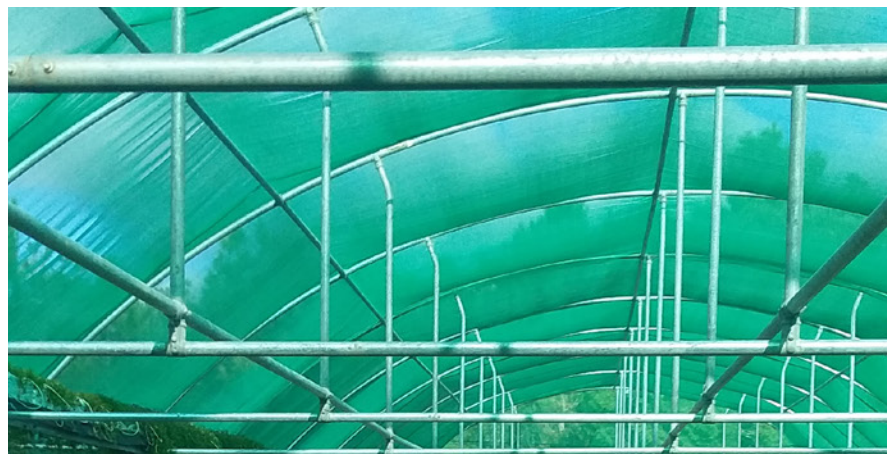
which grew naturally on the salt flats could be brought into commercially viable production. Trialling three growing systems – Wild Harvest, Plantation and a Shadehouse system irrigated with saline groundwater – the project has been able to successfully produce saltbush, samphire, ice-plant

and karakalla (pig-face). Working with multiple partners, the project didn't end there, but also developed a full paddock-to-plate supply chain – including getting the products onto hospitality and restaurant menus in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide, and winning a national produce award.

Two saltbush plantation management machines were developed, and a Packing Shed has been built in Katanning – which will hopefully provide more local employment, and open new opportunities for other niche growers in the broader district.

Soil scientists have been monitoring the environmental impacts, showing the link between active production and management of plants on saline lands, and resultant improvements in soil health.

A Saline Bush Foods Overview Manual was released in January 2022, and the full Environmental Monitoring Report followed in March 2022. Free copies of these reports are available through ella@katanninglandcare.org.au. A training course and Technical Manual have also been produced to support new growers to enter into the supply chain.



Landholders Viv Cranney, Judy Felton-Taylor, Jacky Cranney, Bill Cranney and Kim Felton-Taylor among Bulloak trees on "Bonyi" Goondiwindi.

BUILDING CORRIDORS FOR THE BULLOAK JEWEL BUTTERFLY

MacIntyre Ag Alliance and Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) have secured a Community Sustainability Action Grant to safeguard the future of a critically endangered species of butterfly in the Goondiwindi region. A grant of \$99,659

from Round 4 of the Threatened Species Recovery and Resilience category will fund "Building Corridors for the Bulloak Jewel Butterfly" over the next three years.

MacIntyre Ag Alliance Vice President Pip Jones said the project will extend and improve hundreds of hectares of habitat for the butterfly and associated species within a corridor connecting the Bendidee State Forest and National Park, one of only two locations where the species has been confirmed since 2000.

"Opportunities to extend and improve the butterfly's habitat are only available on private land, meaning community involvement and investment is vital for the persistence of this species in the future," Pip said.

"The project will be hosted by four Goondiwindi landholders on the adjoining properties 'Dunworrie', 'Bonyi', 'Kerimbilla' and 'Terella', all of whom are heavily involved in conservation and have a long history of association with MacIntyre Ag Alliance."

QTFN CEO Steve Lacey said the Bulloak Jewel Butterfly has suffered tremendous habitat declines due to extensive clearing and selective logging of large bulloak trees, and is now on the verge of extinction.

"The best way to support this imperilled butterfly is to ensure a large and diverse breeding and foraging habitat. This project will rehabilitate forests to their remnant state though bulloak planting and managing intrusive pine species,

invasive grasses and feral animals," Steve said.

"We will also conduct ecological research through a partnership with the University of Queensland, raise community awareness through field days and school trips, and seek cultural advice on habitat management from the QMDCI Inglewood Aboriginal Rangers."

"For long term protection, the Bulloak Jewel Butterfly requires a local community knowledgeable of its plight and invested in its stewardship. We are very excited to be working with MacIntyre Ag Alliance and the Goondiwindi region on this critical ecological work," Steve said.

For more information please contact macintyreagalliance.com



TRAINING TO TACKLE 'GREAT JUGGLING ACT'

Northern Territory soils are some of the most fragile in the world, and our agricultural communities depend on this natural resource for economic viability.

Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) is committed to developing the skills and understanding of the NT's

agricultural community in managing their soil.

Jack Farthing recently joined TNRM as the Soil Extension Officer to work one on one with producers to assist in them to understand soil management and health.

"As a former producer, I understand that soil management is hard, it takes



patience and dedication. I label it, the great juggling act," Jack said.

"Soil is an amazingly complex matrix of interconnected systems. Thus there is no silver bullet and improvements won't happen overnight. It's a process that you will have to work at year after year. Planning and management is only half the battle. Having patience, dedication and sticking to your strategy when a season is not going your way is the hardest part."

TNRM has secured a Smart Farms Small Grant from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, which will provide professional development skills and training to sample soils, interpret results and manage soils for production and sustainability.

The soil extension project will engage farmers, pastoralists, industry extension staff and land managers from the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs regions, to complete accredited training for the Diploma of Agriculture.

As part of the NT Soil Consortium led by TNRM, a free Composting on Farm workshop will be held in Darwin's rural area, and will be open to interested producers, farmers, horticulturalists and industry stakeholders. The workshop will cover methods, ingredients and examples of likely outcomes for soil health after application.

A soil symposium roadshow will also be held in September 2022 travelling to Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. The symposium will provide opportunities for those interested in learning more about soils to hear from a range of speakers including highly regarded soil professionals, educators and researchers about the latest discoveries and innovations in soil health and best practice management techniques.

For more information or to register your interest please contact: jack.farthing@territorynrm.org.au or visit www.territorynrm.org.au



Photos: Jessica Howard Photography

NORTH QUEENSLAND GROUP EMPOWERING PRODUCERS FOR A BETTER LANDCARE FUTURE

The Barfield Road Producer Group (BRPG) in North Queensland was awarded a Landcare Farming Program grant to demonstrate good stewardship of their natural resources. Melanie Shannon and Melinee Leather are both key members of this group and were instrumental in the group's formation. They, and the BRPG group, recognized a need to build extension and adoption networks to increase knowledge in the areas of carbon and natural capital.

"A changing climate is the new normal for landholders. How we care for our landscape has become a significant part of new learnings for our producer group," member Melanie Shannon said "As a group, we'd like to gain a better understanding of environmental market opportunities and risks in our region."

Committed to finding evidence-based pathways to demonstrate their stewardship, BRPG, will assess the feasibility of a soil carbon project with the assistance of the Land Restoration Fund, while undertaking accreditation under Accounting for Nature - an internationally recognised framework.

"There's a wealth of information out there about environmental markets, however it was difficult to know where to start. This grant has allowed our

group to find opportunities in a daunting and complex field with minimal risk to individual businesses," Melanie said.

The group is collaborating with stakeholders including Landcare, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Cibo Labs, Integrity Ag and Farmlab.

Landcare Farming has played a leading role in supporting the BRPG on the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices to deliver a more productive and profitable agricultural industry. According to BRPG founding member Melinee Leather, "Adapting to environmental challenges and responding to climate change will be instrumental in not only a sustainable future for farming families and the broader community but vital for future global food security. With a commitment to lead the way for education and extension activities, BRPG has identified evidence-based steps/practices to highlight a path forward for other producers who are keen to participate, but are overwhelmed with information. This peer-to-peer learning structure provides a practical approach, and the on-farm experience engages a broad audience and level of uptake and opportunity for societal change."

For further information about the Landcare Farming Program, please contact: Ang Hammond. m: 0402 921 929 e: ang.hammond@landcareaustralia.com.au

LANDCARE FARMING PROJECTS ACROSS OUR WIDE BROWN LAND

A range of sustainability focused farming systems projects are currently underway under the umbrella of the Landcare Farming Program to test topics for evidence-based 'stories' and to benchmark the current situation to influence future direction.

These projects support primary producer groups to implement their own on-farm investigations and provide opportunities for 'early adopters' to engage in peer-to-peer learning while growing a community of producers who value the gains from the environmental management of their land.

These Landcare Farming projects are testing topics to develop a series of evidence-based "stories" that can be used as a benchmark for influencing changes to Australia's current farming system at the farmer, consumer and policy level.

Landcare Farming projects include investigations into contemporary issues such as using on-farm models for accounting to underpin eco-credentials; learning more about livestock feed additives and their ability to reduce methane output; understanding the process of carbon baseline sampling and full accreditation to assist producers to understand soil carbon levels and the efficacy of their management in moving toward carbon neutrality; and establishing baseline assessments for grazing enterprises across a diversity of ecosystems while ground-truthing the Accounting for Nature (AFN) framework.

The co-benefits of these Australia-wide projects are far reaching and include better outcomes for the businesses, people, carbon management, vegetation, groundcover, drought resilience and biodiversity.

wanted to use their platform to benefit the natural landscape.

"By partnering with Landcare Australia, we hope to support the incredible efforts of Australian farmers, whose life's work depends on having an intimate understanding of changing environmental needs."

Country Road has committed \$600,000 over three years to support the conservation of farming landscapes, with funding coming from corporate contributions and sales of its Verified Australian Cotton Heritage Sweets. This generous resourcing allows Landcare Australia to conduct multiple biodiversity projects around Australia and enable more Australian farmers to participate.

The cotton industry is also helping by supplying valuable research findings that examined biodiversity in Australian cotton landscapes, identified endangered species and recommended ways to protect them.

Benefits of the riparian revegetation works on both properties include increased habitat and shelter for native animals, reduced erosion along the river bank, better water quality and improved biodiversity.

Landcare Australia CEO Dr Shane Norrish said the projects will help to restore local ecosystems and contribute to the sustainable management and productivity of the landscape.

"We are very pleased to be working with Country Road, the Australian cotton industry and cotton growers on biodiversity projects that will protect habitat for a range of native plants and animals, including threatened species."

Country Road Managing Director, Elle Roseby, said Landcare Australia's values resonated with the retailer and they

COTTONING ON TO IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY

A project to boost biodiversity in Australia's cotton-growing regions is underway thanks to an alliance forged between retailer Country Road and Landcare Australia.

The project aims to improve the health of river systems, protect native flora and fauna and engage farmers.

The first project is being implemented with the Kahl's, a third-generation cotton farming family in Wee Waa, NSW. The second project is with the Watson's family near Boggabri. In NSW. Both projects are in the Namoi Catchment, a region significantly affected by biodiversity loss and requiring restoration.



SAVE THE DATE

2022 NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 23 – THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2022



2022 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST, 2022

Join us late August for the 2022 National Landcare Conference and National Landcare Awards events.

Hosted by Landcare champion and ABCTV presenter Costa Georgiadis, delegates can participate in person at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour Sydney - or online as a virtual delegate from anywhere in the world.

The National Landcare Conference is the largest knowledge sharing convention for the Landcare community. This event brings together landcare groups and volunteers, landholders and farmers, Indigenous land and sea managers, landcare facilitators and coordinators, educators, research agencies, universities, natural resource management professionals, and other community environmental groups and individuals to share insights, learn and connect.

With over 80 speakers, the conference attracts delegates across Australia and from around the world with a common purpose – a vision to actively restore and protect the environment in their local community through sustainable land management and conservation activities. Landcare has never been more important and this is reflected in the conference theme: The Power of Landcare | Shaping our Future.

For more information please visit www.nationallandcareconference.org.au

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