

New South Wales Entry Brochure

Calling for entries for the 2015 State & Territory Landcare Awards. With nine national categories, there is an award to suit every project, from sustainable farming, Coastcare, Junior Landcare, Indigenous Land Management, and more. See inside for more details.



These awards are supported by Landcare Australia, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



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Held since Landcare was launched nationally, the Landcare Awards recognise the volunteers who are the backbone to the grass-roots movement - one of the leading volunteer forces in Australia. All winners of the State & Territory Landcare Awards will go forward as finalists to the 2016 National Landcare Awards.

SUBMITTING AN ENTRY

You may nominate yourself, a group or a person from your local community for any of the award categories. Applicants must submit an entry through the online portal, and respond to all criteria for their nominated award category. More information, including entry guidelines and requirements are available from www.landcaronline.com.au/landcareawards

WHAT IS LANDCARE?

Landcare is a movement of individuals and groups focusing on managing the environment in their local area. Within the Landcare Awards, the term 'Landcare' refers to all groups, individuals, organisations and activities that care for the land. This includes, but is not limited to: Landcare, Coastcare, Bushcare, Dunecare, Rivercare, 'Friends of' groups, farmers, professional farming systems groups, natural resource management, Junior Landcare (including day care centres, primary and secondary schools, youth groups, scout groups, etc.), Urban Landcare and Indigenous Landcare.

Your New South Wales Landcare Awards Coordinator:

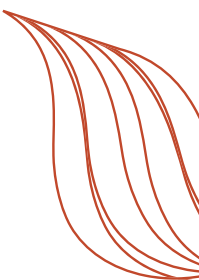
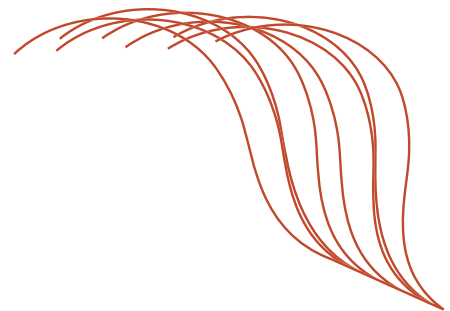
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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INDIVIDUAL LANDCARER AWARD



About the Category

This award will be made to an individual volunteer who carries out and promotes Landcare through practical on-ground or community awareness activities.

Selection Criteria:

1. Demonstrate how the individual has implemented Landcare activities and has helped others to implement Landcare activities in their area.
2. How has the individual encouraged others to be involved in Landcare activities? (e.g. by speaking about Landcare to schools, media, landholders, groups, councils etc)
3. How has the individual assisted in training and helping others in the development of skills for the Landcare activities undertaken?
4. Provide examples of how the individual has been a champion for Landcare, either through their achievements with Landcare projects or in a primary role in the planning and organisation associated with Landcare projects.
5. Describe any challenges the individual has faced in the development and implementation of Landcare projects and the strategies they used to overcome these challenges.





About the Category

This award will be made to a local or regional authority for innovation and excellence in creating partnerships with their Landcare community. Local or regional authorities in this award category may include a local council, natural resource management regional body, or another local or regional agency.

Selection Criteria:

1. How has the organisation or authority developed strong partnerships with Landcare groups/networks to ensure community engagement and involvement in achieving outstanding natural resource management outcomes? You will need to include a copy of or excerpt from your authority's engagement and communication strategy.
2. Describe how the organisation or authority has engaged with Landcare or community groups in innovative ways to support or address its priorities.
3. Demonstrate how the organisation or authority used a multi-disciplinary approach in planning and partnership development. The authority should show how they have incorporated environmental/production, community/social and financial strategies for achieving outstanding natural resource management outcomes. Provide examples of how the individual has been a champion for Landcare, either through their achievements with Landcare projects or in a primary role in the planning and organisation associated with Landcare projects.
4. How has the organisation or authority linked Landcare initiatives with other groups or programs including other agencies, businesses, organisations, neighbours, schools and community groups? Provide copies or excerpts from plans and / or list cooperative projects.
5. Applicants must include two letters from Landcare groups/networks that acknowledge how the organisation or authority has partnered with the group/network to improve capacity and increase participation in on-ground work.
6. Describe any challenges the organisation or authority has faced in the development and implementation of this Landcare partnership and the strategies used to address these challenges.



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES AWARD



About the Category

This award will be made to a primary producer or enterprise (including aquaculture) which has implemented innovative farm and/or land management practices to improve natural resource management and productivity outcomes. The term innovation in this award is defined as the demonstration of early adoption, excellence and/or leading-edge projects or practices. Eligible primary producers or enterprises, may include an agricultural co-operative, network, agricultural industry association, research group, private business or primary producer.

Selection Criteria:

1. How has the primary producer or enterprise demonstrated innovative farm and/or land management practices that deliver improved productivity and commercial outcomes while improving natural resource management? The key natural resources targeted are soil, water quality, native vegetation and the marine environment. The following are examples of activities that could be used to demonstrate success in this area. This is not an exclusive list.
 - 1.1 Activities that improve any of the following: soil condition, water quality, native vegetation and weed and pest management. Integrated projects will also be considered, e.g. increasing the growth of native grasses to reduce soil erosion, the loss of soil nutrients and improve productivity. For Aquaculture, activities could include those targeting improvements in water quality and environmental health.
 - 1.2 Other activities could be used to demonstrate success: a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions ; increased biodiversity; increased ground cover, particularly during periodic seasonal feed gaps and reduced soil erosion; or improved management and handling of stock to provide both animal welfare and improved natural resource management outcomes.
2. Describe how the innovative farm and/or land management practices undertaken by the primary producer or enterprise have improved productivity outcomes on commercial scale operations. This can be demonstrated through any of the suggested methods outlined below:
 - 2.1 Use of techniques not previously applied in the geographic area or to this type of primary production,
 - 2.2 Application of practices on a commercial scale that were previously only undertaken on a research scale, or;
 - 2.3 Development of techniques that have significantly improved productivity outcomes while improving natural resource management outcomes.
3. Give examples of how the primary producer or enterprise has cooperated with and encouraged involvement of others in sustainable/innovative farming practices.
4. Describe any challenges that were encountered by the primary producer or enterprise in the development and implementation of new or innovative practices and the strategies used to address these challenges.



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT LANDCARE FACILITATOR OR COORDINATOR AWARD

About the Category

This award will be made to a Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in establishing, linking, supporting, enabling, and developing Landcare and/or production groups/networks that participate in sustainable farming practices and on-ground natural resource management, and/or implementation of innovative land management approaches in peri-urban areas*. The term innovation in this award should be defined as the demonstration of early adoption, excellence and/or leading-edge projects or practices.

Note: this is not limited to the Landcare Facilitator positions appointed by the Australian Government; it includes any persons that perform a Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator role within the Landcare movement or for a group or network at a local, district or regional level.

Selection Criteria:

1. Demonstrate how the Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator has successfully established, linked, supported, enabled, and developed Landcare and production groups with a particular focus on one or more of the following: sustainable farming practices, biosecurity and on-ground natural resource management. Activities that could demonstrate this are:
 - 1.1 Activities that improve any of the following: soil condition, water quality, native vegetation and weed and pest management. Integrated projects will also be considered, e.g. increasing the growth of native grasses to reduce soil erosion, the loss of soil nutrients and improve productivity. For Aquaculture, activities could include those targeting improvements in water quality and environmental health.
 - 1.2 Other activities could be used to demonstrate success: a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions ; increased biodiversity; increased ground cover, particularly during periodic seasonal feed gaps and reduced soil erosion; or improved management and handling of stock to provide both animal welfare and improved natural resource management outcomes.
2. Show how the Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator has made a substantial contribution to improve NRM or sustainable farm management practices at the local group, network, regional, or state Landcare level.
3. Demonstrate how the Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator has worked to enhance farmer and/or landholder, or group/network awareness of innovative natural resource management practices and has supported the adoption of these practices.
4. Describe any challenges encountered in the development and implementation of Landcare projects and/or the introduction of new land management practices, and the strategies used to address these challenges.

* This also includes activities related to management of small enterprises and lifestyle blocks. Examples might include, but are not limited to, bush tucker, non commercial horticultural crops, managing erosion and weed management.

COASTCARE AWARD



About the Category

This award will be made to a community group/network for excellence in activities that have contributed to the significant improvement of local coastal and/or marine environments, including estuaries, coastal and marine wetlands and salt marsh ecosystems.

Selection Criteria:

1. Describe the projects undertaken by the group/network that have increased community awareness and engagement with coastal environmental issues linked to local and/or regional environmental/ natural resource management plans.
2. How has the group/network's activities improved the sustainable use and/or management of coastal natural resources? Provide examples of results.
3. Demonstrate how the group/network's activities have targeted the causes and symptoms of local coastal environmental issues.
4. How has the group/network developed local and/or regional partnerships for Coastcare activity? For example with local councils, businesses, school, other community groups, academic institutions etc.
5. What challenges did the group/network encounter in the development and implementation of coastal protection activities and the strategies used to address these challenges?



The logo for the Landcare Community Group Award features the text 'LANDCARE COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD' in a bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: 'LANDCARE' on the top line, 'COMMUNITY' on the middle line, and 'GROUP AWARD' on the bottom line. The text is in a dark red color. Above the text is a dark red semi-circle, and below the text is a lighter red semi-circle, both of which are partially cut off by the edges of the page.


LANDCARE COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD

About the Category

This award will be made to an outstanding community group that is working towards sustainable land use and/or is undertaking on-ground action to protect, enhance or restore an area on behalf of the community.

Selection Criteria:

1. Demonstrate how the group has developed a cutting-edge approach or process to achieve outstanding environmental outcomes.
2. Show how the group has used comprehensive plans, as a basis for their group's activities. Include a copy of these plans and demonstrate the physical, strategic management or other attributes of the group. Plans may include property and/or group and/or catchment plans.
3. Provide examples of how the group has repaired degraded land/environments, prevented degradation and/or has achieved some on-farm and/or community benefit from its on-ground activities.
4. Show how the group has sought advice, worked with and involved the wider community, other Landcare/community groups, government, business and schools, in the development and implementation of its plans.
5. Demonstrate how the group has shared and communicated its ideas, plans, skills, and results (e.g., through field days or education campaigns), to encourage others (i.e. not involved in the group) to participate in Landcare practices and projects.
6. Describe any challenges the group has faced in the development and implementation of cutting-edge Landcare practices or projects, and the strategies used to address these challenges.



JUNIOR LANDCARE TEAM AWARD

About the Category

This award will be made to a youth organisation or young Landcare team that contributes to raising awareness, knowledge and understanding of Landcare amongst young people up to the age of 18, and implements Landcare practices on its own property or within the local community. For this award, youth organisations include primary schools, secondary schools and youth groups such as scouts.

Selection Criteria:

1. How has the organisation's activities led to an improved understanding among their team members and/or the community about environmental/natural resource management issues and further developed skills to better manage the challenges associated with these issues?
2. Provide examples of projects that the team has implemented that have inspired their school, group or community to extend their learning and skills-development classes into practical on-ground activity.
3. How has the team helped others, such as other young groups and/or the wider community learn about Landcare and environmental issues?
4. Show how the group has sought advice, worked with and involved the wider community, other Landcare/community groups, government, business and schools, in the development and implementation of its plans.
5. Describe how the team has developed its educational resources and formed partnerships to increase the capacity of young landcarers to learn about and address environmental/natural resource management issues.
6. Describe any challenges the team has faced in the development and implementation of Landcare projects and the strategies used to address these challenges.



About the Category

This award will be made to an outstanding indigenous community group or individual that is working towards improving land use and/or enhancing or protecting an area on behalf of the community.

Selection Criteria:

1. Describe how the group or individual looks after country including land and / or sea. What sort of work has been undertaken?
2. How has the group or individual used indigenous ecological knowledge and traditional or other land management practices in their work?
3. What kind of impact has the group or individual had in the community by looking after country? For example, has the work created jobs for Indigenous people in the community, have young people learned new skills or had traditional ecological knowledge passed on to them?
4. Demonstrate how the group or individual has worked with others on the project. For example with community elders and others within the community, or any other groups or external organisations.
5. How has the group or individual shared Indigenous land management practices and techniques with the wider community?
6. What challenges has the group or individual experienced in working on country and how has the group or individual responded to these challenges?

INDIGENOUS LAND MANAGEMENT AWARD





YOUNG LANDCARE LEADER AWARD



About the Category

This award will be made to an individual between the ages of 15 -35 years who carries out and/or promotes excellence in Landcare through on-ground or awareness raising activities, as a volunteer or paid employee. You may nominate yourself or a person from your community for this award.

Selection Criteria:

1. Provide examples of cutting-edge and/or excellent Landcare practices that the individual has implemented in their local area, and/or how they have helped others implement these practices.
2. Demonstrate how the individual has displayed leadership, and encouraged others in promoting or implementing activities that improve natural resource management outcomes; (e.g. by speaking to schools, media, landholders, groups, councils etc).
3. How has the individual trained and helped others in developing their Landcare practices and skills?
4. Describe how the individual has been a champion for Landcare, through their achievements in environmental sustainability projects or their role in planning and organising Landcare-associated initiatives.
5. Provide examples of the ways the individual has communicated environmental/natural resource management issues or raised awareness about Landcare to a wider audience (including the use of media, social media, events, speeches or presentations, posters, letters etc).
6. Describe any challenges the individual has faced in the development and implementation of cutting-edge and/or excellent Landcare projects, and the strategies used to address these challenges.