

2011 Tasmanian Landcare Awards



Sunday 9 October 2011
Stanley Town Hall

Delivered by the
Tasmanian Landcare Association



Welcome Message from the Tasmanian Landcare Association



The Tasmanian Landcare Association is delighted to welcome landcarers, their families and supporters from across the state to Stanley for the 2011 Tasmanian Landcare Awards.

The Tasmanian Landcare Association is delivering the 2011 Tasmanian Landcare Awards on behalf of Landcare Australia Ltd and the Tasmanian State Government. We would like to thank both organisations for engaging us to bring the Landcare community together for this important occasion. We are grateful that Landcare Australia Ltd and the Tasmanian State Government are committed to recognising and rewarding the individuals and groups who are helping to make Tasmania a better place through their landcare efforts. Our thanks to Landcare Australia Ltd's major sponsors and to the local businesses who are supporting the event in many ways.

The 2011 Tasmanian Landcare Awards are an opportunity to celebrate the Landcare movement's achievements. People involved in community Landcare are often very humble – they are not motivated by honours or accolades. Their rewards are in the local, on-ground change they see through their actions, however their efforts and achievements are worthy of celebration.

For those who do make it on stage to accept an award, we cheer loudly and wish you the best of luck in the National Landcare Awards in 2012. And our applause extends to every person quietly pulling weeds, planting trees, erecting fences – protecting habitat, restoring coastlines and improving farming practices – everyday across Tasmania. We value the contribution of everyone and congratulate the difference you are all making to your local patch and your community.

Our thanks to those who took the time to nominate an individual or group for a Landcare Award and to the members of the judging panels for their integrity and professionalism – and ability to make the hard decisions. There certainly were some hard decisions to be made!

We congratulate all nominees, finalists and award winners. We also thank and congratulate every landcarer for being involved and making a difference.

*Margie Jenkin,
Executive Officer, Tasmanian
Landcare Association
on behalf of the Conference and Awards
Steering Committee*

Program for the Evening

6.00pm Doors to the Stanley Town Hall open

6.30pm 2011 Tasmanian Landcare Awards ceremony

Your MC for the evening is the Mark Horstman (ABC TV's Catalyst)

KIM EVANS – Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Announcement of the following Award winners:

- Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award
- The Australian Government NRM Region Award
- The Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award
- The Australian Government Local Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator Award

JENNY KNOX – Partnership Coordinator – Landcare Australia Ltd

Announcement of the following Award winners:

- The Australian Government Coastcare Award
- The Rural Press Primary Producer Award
- The Toshiba Community Group Award
- The Westpac Education Award

MATTHEW PITT – President – Tasmanian Landcare Association

Announcement of the following Award winners:

- The Urban Landcare Award
- The Leighton Holdings Indigenous Award
- The Be Natural Young Landcare Leader Award
- The Local Government Landcare Partnerships Award

7.30pm End of 2011 Tasmanian Awards Ceremony
Pre-dinner drinks in the Beer Garden beneath The Nut

8.00-9.30pm Dinner featuring local produce

9.30-11.30pm Local band on stage and viewing of Landcare posters upstairs in the Town Hall

11.30pm Close



Photographs Courtesy Tourism Tasmania

Award Categories



Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award

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

Finalists

GWEN EGG

Gwen is a Tasmanian Landcare hero and a gentle, philosophical, passionate and practical Landcarer. She has been a guiding force within the Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare (SBL/C) group and has contributed to caring for the environment and inspiring others to be involved in environmental care over the past twenty years.

Gwen has been a driving force behind SBL/C's contribution to many collaborative coastal management activities in her local patch which includes several catchments and approximately 23km of coast in one of the fastest growing municipalities in the State. Gwen has always encouraged her group to become well informed about the local environment and management practices and to take a strategic approach to all their activities. The comprehensive array of strategies, management plans, surveys, technical advice and monitoring work that has been undertaken is testimony to this and sets a fine example to other groups.

Gwen is highly regarded by individuals, schools, community groups, natural resource management officers and land managers across the State. Her approach over more than 20 years has been to explore and demonstrate good principles of caring for the environment while respecting and encouraging the contribution of others. Gwen takes every opportunity to support the local community to get to know and name what they care about in their environment and encourage people to be informed about how best to care for their patch. It is this approach which has drawn people to Gwen, seeking support and advice on how to care for the environment.

Environment and community are at the centre of just about everything Gwen gets involved with. It doesn't matter whether it's paid work or volunteering or art or activism, her everyday understanding and passion for the people and the environment in her neighbourhood have been the driving force in her life.

LEANNE SHERRIFF

Leanne has been instrumental in volunteer and professional Landcare and natural resource management activities throughout Tasmania for over 10 years. A strong landcare ethic drives Leanne's passion and also motivates and encourages others to get involved and make a difference.

Personally and professionally Leanne has been actively involved in increasing the awareness of local community members, landholders and councils about the natural values associated with their patch, how best to use and protect these assets and how to access funding for continued management. As a volunteer Leanne has ensured the success of Landcare at a state-wide level and locally. Leanne's commitment to the Tasmanian Landcare Association (TLCA) has seen her participate voluntarily as the association Vice President, on various committees, in Chair and member roles, organising state awards and conferences, developing newsletters and in the coordination and assessment of funding programs.

Leanne was one of the founding members of the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania (SCAT) and continued involvement as a general committee member for 3 years. Seven years on, the organisation is successfully fulfilling its role supporting Coastcare groups in the south of the State, and was a model for the development of a similar group in the north-west. Leanne's ongoing involvement with the Mortimer Bay Coastcare Group (MBCG) over 10 years has seen a notable reduction in weed infestations, successful native revegetation projects, continuing protection for nesting shore birds and an engaged local community.

Leanne has a unique range of skills and experiences covering aspects of both production and environmental management, from native vegetation and threatened species management through to working with farmers, landholders and community groups to implement sustainable practices.

While Leanne would not consider her professional engagements to be worthy of recognition through an award such as this, they provide further evidence of her dedication and passion in this field. To maintain the energy and drive to promote the Landcare ethic in both professional and voluntary activities demonstrates Leanne's commitment.



Nominees

HAZEL BRITTON

Ornithologist and Cradle Coast resident, Hazel Britton, promotes Landcare and carries out practical, on-ground and community awareness activities as the lead volunteer in the region's Shorebird Monitoring Program.

Hazel was instrumental in identifying the need for, and developing a process to implement, a large-scale community-based Shorebird Monitoring Program with Cradle Coast NRM in October 2009. Due to Hazel's commitment and enthusiasm, this program has since grown to involve more than 100 volunteers who twice a year visit 41 sites stretching from Narawntapu National Park to Stanley to undertake shorebird counts.

Hazel, a member of Birds Tasmania, works alongside Cradle Coast NRM as the volunteer Project Coordinator to ensure that each count is successfully managed. Hazel assigns community volunteers to each count-site and partners experienced ornithologists / lead volunteers with novices to ensure all volunteers are supported with required knowledge. Hazel manages the distribution and collation of the count sheets, including maintaining a database of results and preparing summaries to communicate findings with the volunteers and stakeholders.

To ensure that community volunteers are inspired and well-supported, Hazel shares her shorebird identification knowledge with new volunteers by conducting presentations that are also open to the general public. It is due to Hazel's unwavering commitment that the project is still going strong and volunteer retention is high.

Beyond the Shorebird Monitoring Program, Hazel also contributes to shorebird conservation by making presentations to school groups on bird habitats, behaviours and identification. She is the local representative for Birds Australia's Shorebird 2020 Program and also organises twice yearly counts of the migratory shorebirds that frequent the region. Hazel is also a member of the community group 'Friends of Lillico Penguins' and is a Penguin Guide for visitors at the Lillico penguin-viewing platform. Hazel's involvement is motivated by her desire for the community to learn about these birds and how to protect them.

GEOFF CORDERY

Geoff Cordery is known throughout the North West region of Tasmania as a Landcare champion. He lives in Stanley on the weekends and resides in Queenstown, where he works, during the working week. He has done this for over ten years. Throughout this period he has been passionately involved in Landcare in both the Stanley and the Queenstown communities. He has provided leadership, direction, enthusiasm, encouragement, and a pair of hard working hands to both communities.

Previously he has been involved in Landcare efforts on Stanley's famous 'Nut', exerting himself to contribute to the long term eradication of the WoNS (Weeds of National Significance) listed gorse. While others were debating the best way to manage this weed in the area or criticising land management authorities, Geoff was leading by example, with gloves and saw, contributing significantly to its on-ground removal.

Geoff also regularly volunteers towards shorebird monitoring along the North West Coast and has been involved in the King River Action Group (KRAG), who have looked at remediation of deposited mine tailings at the mouth of the King River on Macquarie Harbour at Strahan. Geoff's other passion is geology, and his expertise was welcomed by members of KRAG during their revegetation trials on the tailings deposits.

Geoff's current focus has been his involvement with Queenstown Landcare Group. He is their current Secretary and was instrumental in the conceptualisation and formation of the group in 2007. During formation, Geoff

led efforts to lobby politicians and approach local businesses and government organisations for start-up capital. He is and has been for many years, a regular at their meetings and working bees and is always looking at promoting the group and their achievements in the media. One of Geoff's more recent achievements has been the creation of a draft 'Weeds of Queenstown' brochure to be distributed to Queenstown residents in a bid to draw attention to environmental weeds in the community, while promoting the group to increase its membership and community reach.

ROSEMARY FARRELL

Rosemary Farrell has been a dedicated member of Wynyard Landcare since 1995, a community representative on the Frenchs Road Nature Reserve Committee (Waratah-Wynyard Council) since 1997, and a member of the Friends of Frenchs Road Nature Reserve group since 2003 (the Friends of Frenchs Road Nature Reserve group is a sub-group of Wynyard Landcare). Rosemary is now Vice President of the Wynyard Landcare Committee and Secretary of the Friends of Frenchs Road Nature Reserve group.

Rosemary has been active with both Wynyard Landcare and the Friends of Frenchs Road Nature Reserve groups within the Reserve and the local area. The Friends of Frenchs Road group have removed many weeds including willows, ragwort, blackberries, Elisha's tears, nettles and thistles. The group has worked with the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Green Corps, Work for the Dole groups, Greening Australia, high school students (e.g. Yolla), field naturalist groups, Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Waratah-Wynyard Council.

The Reserve has Annual Open Days, organised by the Friends of Frenchs Road group, with significant input from Rosemary Farrell. The Open Days provide the opportunity to showcase and promote the Reserve to the public and encourage their involvement in Landcare. It's also an opportunity for the community to enjoy the Reserve and to appreciate the positive environmental outcomes of the great work that Rosemary Farrell and the Friends of group have achieved over the years.

Award Categories



Australian Government Natural Resource Management (NRM) Award

This award will be made to one of Australia's 56 Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regions, for excellence and innovation in creating partnerships with their Landcare community, for natural resource and environmental management. The organisation must demonstrate that its Plan contains strategies to achieve a high level of engagement with Landcare community groups and networks. The NRM Plan does not have to be fully implemented, however the Region must show that significant steps towards implementing the Plan, and building community partnerships are in place, and that there is support or understanding within their community for implementing the NRM Plan. *(Please note that as a 2009 winner, NRM North is ineligible to apply.)*

Finalists

CRADLE COAST NRM

Cradle Coast NRM has allocated significant resources through the Community Skills, Knowledge and Engagement Program to support Landcare community groups. They have assisted with community group planning, provided training, offered small grant programs and held awareness raising events to involve the community in Landcare. In developing strong

partnerships with Local and State Government land managers, they facilitate working more effectively with groups.

Cradle Coast NRM has actively supported over 80 Landcare, Coastcare, Friends of, Aboriginal groups, community and farm groups and farmers with over \$1 134 194 in funding for natural resource projects. They have disseminated more than 140 grants via programs such as Natural Connections, devolved, community and school grants.

There have been more than 50 significant community capacity-building events since the last Landcare awards including the Shorebird Monitoring Project (involving 100 community volunteers over 41 sites), Rural Living Round-up (attracting 500 hobby and



lifestyle farmers), Soils Essentials Field Day (involving 65 farmers and agronomists) and Regional Coastal Forum (reaching 170 community members). In addition, the Cradle Coast NRM short term visitor volunteer program has supported local on-ground works and involved the wider community in looking after our natural resources. The 2009-2011 Cradle Coast NRM Youth Engagement Program successfully involved 4 008 students from 152 classes from 30 schools and youth organisations in environmental education activities learning about biodiversity, river health and coastal awareness. These hands-on activities have captured the imagination of a new era of landcarers, translating the message to look after our natural resources into new attitudes and behaviours. Cradle Coast NRM value and depend upon the contribution of regional volunteers to protect, preserve and maintain our land, coasts and biodiversity and are proud to continue their long-term support of these custodians.

NRM SOUTH

The Natural Resource Management Strategy for Southern Tasmania, 2010 – 2015 was developed by NRM South through extensive consultation with the community of the Southern Region. The Southern NRM strategy recognises that a vibrant care community is essential for improving natural resource management and achieving on-ground outcomes.

This is reflected in the strategies and actions identified in the Regional Strategy, which seek to provide the information, funding and support needed to continue the delivery of valuable natural resource management activities into the future in partnership with community groups and organisations.

Through its programs (Healthy Catchments and Coasts, Sustainable Management Practices, Communications and Community Engagement, and Knowledge and Information) and staff, NRM South assists Landcare, Coastcare and other 'care' groups, catchment committees, schools, local government, non-government organisations and individuals to increase their capacity to manage natural resources. This is achieved through establishing partnerships; facilitating planning and consultation processes; providing funding and supporting external funding applications, hosting information sharing and capacity building field days, workshops and seminars; producing a wide variety of information resources (fact sheets, brochures, reports etc) and providing technical support and information.

Local Coordinators and stakeholder working groups are now established in the Southern Region. Their work covers the Glamorgan- Spring Bay; Tasman and Sorell; Hobart and Kingborough; Upper Derwent and Highland Lakes and the Huon Valley areas with focuses on aligning local actions and initiatives with regional priorities and building capacity and strong working relationships in local areas with local groups and individuals.

On-ground achievements for both the 09/10 and 10/11 years had a major positive impact on natural resources across the region. Largely these achievements have been underpinned by the support of landcare individuals and groups. During 09/10 over 400ha of weeds were treated and controlled, including 240ha of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) tackled through partnerships. By engaging with landholders an additional 1 325ha of native vegetation and habitat benefited from improved management. The status of three Ramsar wetlands was also improved through strategic weed control works, fencing, revegetation and collaboration with neighbouring landholders.



Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award

This award will be made to a primary producer or enterprise (i.e. an agricultural co-operative, network, agricultural industry association, research group, private business or primary producer) involved in primary production who implements innovative practices or activities to improve natural resource management and productivity outcomes.

Finalists

JOHN AND VICKI LILICO

John and Vicki Lillico have been dairy farming in the north-west of Tasmania near Smithton for over 20 years. Their property includes approximately 440ha of improved pasture, they milk 600 to 700 Friesian cows and run all replacement stock. Over the years they found that they needed to apply increasing amounts of chemical fertiliser to get the desired results of pasture growth, and they were also applying considerable quantities of granulated urea and muriate of potash. At the time of peak chemical fertiliser use the Lillicos were top dressing pasture fortnightly or monthly. The clover had almost disappeared from the pasture and the herd health was



declining. The number of cows suffering from mastitis was increasing, along with lameness, and pregnancy rates were declining. At this point their farming consultant suggested that they explore biological farming.

What has followed is an increasing awareness of ecological processes and an appetite for education in soil biology and chemistry. At the time of John and Vicki's transition to biological farming, a spade hole dug in the pasture would yield probably two worms, now a spade hole has forty to fifty worms. Worms are considered an indicator species of soil health, it is possible for us to see worms where we cannot see soil bacteria, and also worms exist in relationship with the smaller bacteria and fungi, so the presence of worms indicates also the presence of smaller soil biota.

Award Categories

The current fertiliser budget is almost half what it was at the peak of chemical fertiliser use, and their property is still producing the grass required to feed their herd. The only chemical fertiliser now used is that which is proven not to impact on soil biology. There are now significant amounts of balanced foliar fertiliser applied. Recently compost has been applied at the same time as their solid fertiliser to stimulate biological activity and provide a more stable plant food.

Today with healthier pastures they have healthier animals. The number of cows affected with mastitis has more than halved since the change to biological farming. John and Vicki used to notice that the dairy smelled strongly of ammonia at milking time, as the cows were excreting excess nitrogen however the smell has now gone.

Another innovation recently installed on the property is the first Automatic Dipping and Flushing system in Tasmania. The system dips the cow's teats immediately after milking and then disinfects the liners before they are placed on the next cow reducing mastitis and antibiotic usage.

PHILIP SPENCER

Phil Spencer manages the family's 120 hectare intensive cropping farm at Bracknell, on the edge of the Liffey River. The farm produces a wide range of crops including wheat, grass seed, peas, carrots, poppies and buckwheat. Soil on the farm ranges from sand to heavy clay. He is also applying his practices on 120 hectare of share farmed ground at Cressy.

Since 2003 Phil has attempted to restore an ecological balance in his farm's soils, while maintaining farm productivity as the basis of his business. For the first few years, he did this without guidance or support from industry bodies, local farmers, the State Department of Primary Industries, or the regional NRM organisation.

The methods used to restore balance to the farm's soils include the application of composts, compost teas and other biologically-based products



such as: soft rock phosphate, worm leachate, molasses, liquid fish waste and vinegar to correct water pH prior to chemical applications, coinciding with a reduction in synthetic inputs. He also used lime in several smaller applications across the whole farm instead of one big application every four or so years apart on only a few paddocks. The emphasis of this move was not to take advantage of organic certification, but to reduce environmental impacts and improve the health of their soil in the long-term while continuing to operate in existing commodity markets. This approach is still far from widely practiced in the region.

Phil's innovative practices have maintained and in some cases improved productivity and profitability while also:

- Increasing the amount and diversity of living organism in the soil;
- Reducing the carbon footprint of the food produced by reducing carbon-intensive synthetic inputs such as nitrogen fertilisers;
- Reducing the toxic burden of agricultural chemicals on the nearby town and river; and
- Attempting to increase the level of carbon stored in the soil.

Since late 2009 Phil began cooperating with the regional NRM organisation, NRM North, to quantify some of the outcomes of his innovative practices, in order to share the information and encourage others to take up more sustainable farming practices.

Australian Government Local Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator Award

This award will be made to a facilitator/coordinator who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in establishing, linking, supporting and developing Landcare and production groups that participate in sustainable farming practices and on-farm natural resource management.

Finalist

GRAEME STEVENSON

Graeme Stevenson has been flying the flag for sustainable agriculture and the Landcare movement in North West Tasmania for over 20 years. Throughout this time Graeme has worn a wide variety of hats (usually decorated with dung-beetles) in the coordination of local Landcare projects. To quote Graeme:

"In the early 90's a group of us sat in Burnie, lamenting the fact that so much Landcare work was happening in Launceston and Hobart, but not in the North West... Support staff who were meant to be in the North West were actually based in Launceston. We desperately wanted to take action locally. So we did it ourselves and got the Elliot and District Catchment Group and Wynyard Landcare group up and going, as well as Waterwatch and school projects ..."

Graeme is certainly an exemplar for the community 'doing it yourself' in

sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. He has supported the establishment and maintenance of a wide-range of community initiatives including the Burnie Farmer's Market and Animal Auction Group, the Elliot and District Catchment Management Group, Wynyard Landcare Group, Organic Gardening and Farming Society of Tasmania, the Organic Coalition of Tasmania, and the Penguin Organic and Sustainable Living Festival.

He has provided support to groups and individuals in implementing well over \$2 million worth of natural resource management projects involving river restoration, weed control, soil monitoring, managing soil erosion and education. These projects have involved planting in excess of 75 000 trees, restoring over 300ha of riparian land (including erecting around 150km of fencing, 126 off-stream watering-points and 35 river crossings) and supporting hundreds of landholders and school groups.

Australian Government Coastcare Award

This award will be made to a community group 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 saltmarsh ecosystems.

Finalist

RUBICON COAST AND LANDCARE GROUP

Rubicon Coast and Landcare work cooperatively with land managers, the Latrobe Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service and other local community groups. The group actively maintains the Port Sorell, Hawley and Freers Beach Foreshore Reserves and the Aubrey Luck, Rubicon Reserves and Dune Reserves. They combat erosion by revegetation and weed control and they remove rice grass from the Panatana Rivulet and tributaries. Part of the Port Sorell Foreshore was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1945. As a result of the lobbying efforts of the Rubicon Coast and Landcare group and other concerned residents, the foreshore reserve area was expanded to Squeaking Point and declared a Conservation Area in 1998 now covering 87.563ha.

Rubicon Coast and Landcare is part of the Greater Rubicon Catchment Management Group (GRCMG). The GRCMG covers the catchment area of the Rubicon River, its tributaries and other sub-catchments that flow into Port Sorell. The catchment incorporates the Meander, West Tamar and Latrobe Municipalities. The GRCMG has developed a policy for managing the Greater Rubicon Catchment that identifies projects, sets catchment-level priorities and encompasses all decisions and actions relating to catchment strategies.

Rubicon Coast and Landcare and affiliated groups have contributed thousands of hours of in-kind labour and are incredibly productive at all levels of natural resource management. They have raised community awareness of the importance of retaining coastal vegetation, weed control and the protection of coastal wildlife.

Rural Press Primary Producer Award

This award will be made to a primary producer (i.e. to an individual, family or farm partnership) for their significant contribution to Landcare, shown through many years of sustained implementation of sound management practices resulting in improved productivity and environmental outcomes. Primary production includes agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture and farm forestry.

Finalists

LEIGH AND MEG HANSSON

Winter Run is a large beef cattle producing property on South Bruny Island. Meg and Leigh Hansson have owned the property for the past decade. In that time the Hanssons have worked hard to protect and rehabilitate the property ensuring that its use as a commercial beef farm is not at the expense of the environment.

Winter Run has large areas of remnant vegetation, including the threatened vegetation communities *Eucalyptus ovata* (Black gum) and a nationally listed grassland community – *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo grass). The property is managed in such a way that the high conservation values of the property are protected.



The Hanssons have willingly worked with organisations such as NRM South and The Understorey Network in order to actively revegetate the property and fence remnant vegetation. Protection of remnant vegetation on the property has increased biodiversity and provides valuable habitat for a range of species. Fencing of riparian areas on the property will protect water quality and riparian vegetation whilst reducing erosion along Winter Run's creek lines. Mapping of the property has highlighted areas of high conservation value and as a result the Hanssons have committed to fencing off and protecting such areas. The Hanssons understand the necessity to not only protect trees on the property, but have also committed to protect understorey species, native grasslands and leave large woody debris on the property, in order to provide habitat for a range of species dependent on logs and debris on the ground. This has required a shift in thinking for the Hanssons who had traditionally thought that a well maintained, productive property did not have dead trees, logs and debris left in paddocks.

Wherever possible the Hanssons apply and share information pertaining to land management in order to farm more sustainably. Winter Run is the site of an NRM South supported grazing trial. This trial will assist in determining the effectiveness of holistic grazing on South Bruny as a technique to increase pasture diversity, reduce the reliance on fertilisers and improve soil health.

Award Categories



paddocks, rotational grazing and use of electric fencing to manage grazing rates.

Four km of fencing and seven gravity-fed water troughs have been installed to exclude stock from approximately 26ha of riparian and remnant bush areas. Fencing was designed to avoid flood damage, reduce marsupial browsing, minimise erosion on the hills and connect areas of natural vegetation.

The Morgans are members of the Lilydale Landcare Group, are a Key Partner Property with the Tasmanian Landcare Association and are registered with the Land for Wildlife Program. In March 2010, they hosted a river restoration field day on Glenford Farm, which was attended by 40 people. Key elements of this project were presented on the ABC Country Hour prior to the field day.

Since this environmental work, stocking rates have increased (from ~ 50 DSE to 180 DSE), more hay has been cut each year (from 260 to more than 600 bales from the same paddock areas), the grazing enterprise now includes fat lambs, beef cattle and horses, and it is no longer necessary to supplementary feed year-round. Clear delineation between productive pasture and natural habitat areas has resulted in improved productivity and environmental outcomes for the property. River restoration has been successful with much reduced erosion, an almost completely native riparian zone and natural flooding regimes.

Weed management is important to the Hanssons and they invest much time and money in treating weeds such as ragwort on the property, to ensure that such weeds are under control and are not spreading onto neighbouring farms.

THE MORGAN FAMILY

At Glenford Farm, Underwood, on the Pipers River in Northern Tasmania, the Morgan family have been busy working on their Landcare and river restoration since 2005. Glenford Farm is a 44 hectare mixed grazing enterprise which aims to combine conservation with production. Over half the property is comprised of remnant forest, wetlands, and streams forming tributaries to the Pipers River, and is important for supporting threatened species known in the area. This project has focused on river restoration and protection of the natural areas, implemented with help from funding sources, expert advice, contractors and volunteer labour.

Most of the energy has gone into river restoration and fencing. Primary tasks included riparian weed and erosion control. Mature willows were removed by an experienced excavator operator, using a cut and paint technique. Stumps were retained in the bank for stability and in-stream erosion control structures were installed using root-balls and large logs, which offer in-stream fauna habitat. Subsequent movement of the structures following flooding over several years has necessitated modification using rock, which improved stability.

A diverse mix of local native species have been planted in the riparian zone to increase biodiversity, fill in gaps, support erosion control and promote wildlife corridors. Tributaries and remnant bush have been fenced off for regeneration and a shelterbelt established to connect hillside remnants to the river vegetation, promoting small bird movement via a mixture of understorey species. In total 700 plants have gone in and planting will continue for several years.

Control of environmental and agricultural weeds is also a priority of the Morgans, with blackberry, tutsan, caper spurge, Californian thistle, gorse and Spanish heath all being targeted. Care has been taken to use appropriate herbicides, especially near waterways, and fertilisation is minimised by harrowing



JOHN AND SUE WARDLE

John and Susan Wardle, together with their farm manager Conrad Daniels have owned Waterview on North Bruny Island for the past nine years. Waterview is a commercial sheep grazing property and is important for a number of conservation values. It is a stunning property physically – it is situated on the coast and as a result provides important habitat for a range of bird species, particularly sea eagles and swift parrots. A colony of the critically endangered 40 spotted pardalote has made its home on Waterview.

The owners of Waterview have committed to manage the property in a way that ensures that it is left in better condition than when they took it over and that farm operations are not at the expense of the environment. To this end, they have undertaken an incredible amount of work on the property to restore and protect habitat, repair erosion, increase biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration and reduce chemical reliance on the property. The Wardles have encouraged and supported Conrad in increasing his knowledge of soil and vegetation management on the property, they have trialled new farming techniques such as planned grazing in an attempt to minimise their impact on the property.

In total, over the past 9 years, 6 700 trees have been planted on Waterview, more than half of the property, 440ha, has been reserved and is being managed for conservation purposes. Sixteen kms of fencing has been erected, in order to protect remnant vegetation.

In order to decrease the carbon footprint of Waterview a number of approaches have been taken. Inputs have decreased, including fertiliser, water and pesticides and the ability of the property to sequester carbon is increasing through protection of remnant vegetation including native grasslands and an active annual tree planting program using locally sourced seed.

The Wardles have welcomed a number of different organisations and individuals on to their property, they have freely shared information and are willing to experiment with different farming methods in order to manage Waterview in a manner that will ensure the health of the property is increasing over time, while continuing to operate as a commercial farm.



Toshiba Community Group Award

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



Finalists

CIRCULAR HEAD LANDCARE GROUP

The walkway along Eastern Esplanade passes through remnant patches of swamp paperbark forest (dominated by *Melaleuca ericifolia* with *Eucalyptus brookeriana*). The 'Melaleuca patches' were overgrown with environmental weeds including mirror bush, Montbretia, sweet pittosporum, English Ivy, banana passionfruit, Cotoneaster and three 'Declared Weeds'; Asparagus fern, blackberry and canary broom. With the increased public use of this area, removal of these weeds became a much higher priority.

Circular Head Council negotiated with Circular Head Landcare Group (CHLG) to take on the supervision of major weed control activities, maintenance of the Melaleuca patches, and rehabilitation of the native vegetation. After some survey work and the completion of the improvements to the public walkway the Landcare Group consulted with Cradle Coast NRM's Coastal Weeds Officer and held an environmental weed field day for their members and took over the care and maintenance of these areas in June 2010.

CHLG organised and supervised the removal of the large weeds by experienced environmental weed contractors and provided a training opportunity for another local weed contractor with limited experience of manual weed control methods. Six truckloads of weeds were removed from the site to facilitate access for future maintenance by CHLG.

The CHLG held four working bees at the Melaleuca patches over the following spring and summer. The work focussed on the removal of re-sprouting Montbretia and blackberry, continual removal of ivy and residual Asparagus fern. The Group has planted common sags around the edges of some Melaleuca patches to improve the aesthetics and to help define the edges. Rehabilitation of the Melaleuca patches is progressing well due to persistent efforts by the 12 members of CHLG. Natural regeneration of native species has already started with the increased light and space available.

FRIENDS OF ADVENTURE BAY

The Friends of Adventure Bay Incorporated (FAB) group has 114 members committed to coastal

Award Categories



management at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island. Over seven years, FAB has galvanized a diverse community to actively, plan, restore and protect their foreshores. Their approach has been:

- inclusive (of the public and land management agencies);
- respectful to diverse interests; and
- balanced so that foreshore management supports the environmental, social and developmental aspirations of the wider community.

They have been successful in receiving grants for on-ground works and generating their own group income through sales of a book they produced on Adventure Bay. The on-ground

changes generated by FAB provide a foreshore environment that is enhanced, protected, managed, valued, safe, fun and linked to the surrounding community.

The community-based approach that FAB has taken towards foreshore planning and management has led to a widely accepted plan for the future of Adventure Bay. This plan has guided on-ground works and ensured that the natural resource management outcomes delivered are strategic and focused upon priority issues.

The FAB group represents an exceptional model for community-based coastal management. They are inclusive, they plan thoroughly and deliver tangible natural resource management outcomes. Their stewardship and successes should be celebrated broadly and inspire other coastal communities across Australia.

TAMAR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tamar Natural Resource Management (Tamar NRM) is an independent not-for-profit group founded on a deep-seated history of Landcare and grass-roots involvement in environmental and agricultural issues in the Tamar Valley. The Tamar Valley Region is a diverse blend of key environments, urban centres, intensive and extensive agricultural, forestry, aquaculture, conservation and recreation areas that requires insightful understanding and management.

Tamar NRM has a long history of bringing

together a wide range of community, Landcare, education, business, Local and State Government representatives that underpins a community driven sub-regional approach ensuring the Tamar Region remains an attractive and prosperous place to live, work and visit based on a healthy sustainable and profitable environment, today and tomorrow.

Formed in 1998, Tamar NRM was a case-study for the development of a regional natural resource management approach in Tasmania. Encompassing the municipalities of Launceston, George Town and West Tamar the partnership between the three councils facilitates and supports Tamar NRM in the continued development and implementation of the Tamar Natural Resource Management Strategy (developed in 1999 and updated in 2001 and 2007).

It is Tamar NRM's facility to cultivate community support, partnership and collaboration that fosters enhanced rural, urban and peri-urban community understanding and active involvement in natural resource management in a proactive, non-confrontational and non-political environment. Activities are maintained in ecological sustainable development, agricultural sustainability, environmental management and community capacity building and empowerment through practical knowledge extension programs. The significant and numerous partnerships and collaborations between Tamar NRM and community/Landcare groups combined with the overarching Tamar Natural Resource Management Strategy have provided the basis for local groups to identify localised issues and then develop and apply local management strategies and on ground actions. Tamar NRM works with and for community groups undertaking a guiding, mentoring and empowering role supporting the groups in maintaining their relevance to the regional strategy whilst ensuring local issues do not become diluted in the larger picture.

Locally developed plans and strategies that have been initiated include the George Town Coastal Management

Plan, Greens Beach Coastal Management Plan, Blessington, Pipers River and West Tamar Neighbourhood Group Plans, Catchment Management Plans, Pipers River Management Plan, numerous local weed plans and numerous individual Property Management Plans.

Tamar NRM has attracted over \$6.2 million dollars of funding to the region in the last decade, testament to the strength of community espousal and the commitment of partnerships and collaborations.

Nominees

MERSEY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mersey Natural Resource Management Group Inc is a community group financially supported by three local governments – Devonport City, Latrobe and Kentish in the central north-west of Tasmania. It has a passionate committee and community.

The group in conjunction with a variety of partners has:

- Undertaken well over 1 400 individual projects;
- Planted in excess of 280 000 native plants;
- Built in excess of 200kms of fencing; and
- Undertaken river works on 15 different rivers and major streams and built boardwalks, paths, rotundas, bridges, viewing platforms etc.

QUEENSTOWN LANDCARE GROUP

The Queenstown Landcare Group has been operating in Queenstown since early 2007. They are the first of their kind to operate in the mining town of Queenstown on Tasmania's remote West Coast.

The group's aims are to promote environmental awareness in the Queenstown community and improve the environment in which community members live, work and play. Queenstown Landcare Group holds meetings on a monthly basis with regular working bees fortnightly through the West Coast's brief period of warmer weather. The group has received generous donations and grants from local businesses and all three levels of Government, have raised significant

funds through fundraising activities, and have involved themselves with other community organisations and events wherever possible.

The group developed an action plan in late 2007, which along with the group's constitution directs group activities, with a focus on raising community awareness of land management issues such as weed control, native plant propagation and small revegetation projects, especially around the schools and along the Queen River.

Outcomes achieved over the past 12 months include:

- In conjunction with the West Coast Weed and Fire Management Group, volunteers have involved themselves in the control of WoNS listed weeds including blackberry, gorse and willow, along with other weeds identified to be of high priority under the West Coast Weed and Fire Management Strategy such as Erica, broom and pampas grass. The focus for the group's works has been along the infamous Queen River, which runs through the Queenstown township;
- Developed a brochure which implemented a short self-guided walking tour highlighting the group's achievements around the town;
- Aided in the running of and purchase of plants for 'West Coast All Schools Tree Day' held in Queenstown in September 2010. This event saw a class of grade 3-6 students from each of the six West Coast primary level schools (a total of around 130 students) converge on the town to plant out indigenous tube stock at highly degraded sites along the Queen River. A total of 800 plants were planted, staked and guarded on what turned out to be a typically wet West Coast day;
- The development of a self-funded 'Weeds of Queenstown' brochure along with the development of a detailed self-funded webpage; and
- The environmental restoration and ongoing maintenance of Passion Park, a public reserve on the banks of the Queen River. Following weed removal, the group have revegetated the banks with local Houn pine, King Billy pine, whiteywood and leatherwood seedlings.



Westpac Education Award

This award will be made to a primary or secondary school or youth group – either as a whole class or special group. The award is for the school/group's contribution to raising awareness, knowledge and understanding of Landcare amongst students and the community, and for implementing Landcare practices on its own property or within the local community.

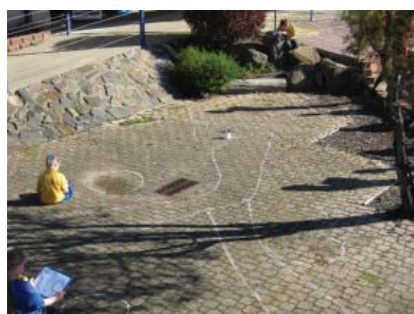
Finalists

ALBUERA STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

After becoming an AuSSi-Tas school in 2010, Albuera Street Primary School decided that the Grade 5 class should be responsible for leading the school in environmental issues.

Their first task was to create a native sustainable garden in a large, dry and unsightly area of the school. The job was much harder than they imagined but they have learnt so much along the way. They have now extended their new gardening skills to producing vegetables for the canteen and buddying with younger classes to teach them how to garden.

Award Categories



HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hillcrest Primary School (HPS) has a whole school approach towards sustainability, fostering growth in understanding through projects within the school environment. A member of AuSSI Tas since 2009, Hillcrest Primary School has been instrumental in assisting with the slow process of change in sustainable practices through newsletter articles, attendance of Green Leaders at conferences, on the ground environmental development and interaction with community groups. Sustainability is becoming embedded in the curriculum across the school.

A Green Leader Team (GLT), chosen annually by application comprises of grade 6 students who were on the team the previous year with newly initiated grade 5 students – a continuation from one year to the next with half of the team carried over. The GLT, as the body responsible for identifying Hillcrest Primary School's sustainability issues, explore solutions and present materials to teachers, students and the wider community and work collaboratively to address areas of need. Processes have

been created to allow other students and teachers to share sustainability concerns and ideas with them.

The GLT works collaboratively with a teacher leader who is the conduit between them, the staff and the community. These partnerships have been responsible for the development of outdoor learning areas establishing vegetable and herb gardens, compost facilities, a bird garden, fruit tree arbour, shelter belt planting (annual whole school participation in National Tree Planting Day), developing an awareness of the natural environment in the adjacent Hillers Reserve and developing a recycling program throughout the school.

The staff, parents and School Association from Hillcrest Primary School financially supported nine students to attend the International Kids Teaching Kids Conference in Caloundra in 2010. These nine students returned to share what they'd learned with the School Association, students, parents and teachers at a school assembly. They followed this up by presenting three workshops at the annual AuSSI Tas Kids 4 Kids Conference in November 2010.

The move towards more sustainable practice has been gradual and managed so as to become embedded in the school ethos. As Hillcrest Primary School students develop a better understanding about caring for the environment they are motivated to share their learning more broadly with the school and local community. Educating the students and

community about why everyday practice should become more sustainable goes hand in hand with the practical side of the developments taking place.

YOUNGTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Youngtown Primary School (350 students) and Glenara Lakes Residents Association (Southern Cross Care) Tasmania have developed a wildlife habitat to encourage native fauna corridors in a semi-urban environment. Participation in this project saw the school embrace environmental education as an integral part of the curriculum.

The planting of local native shrubs and trees will in time provide food and shelter for wildlife, increase the biodiversity and combat the habitat loss that threatens much of our wildlife in urban environments. The planting of understory and protective canopies close to the water edge will provide a host environment for wildlife. The total area encompasses approximately 2 000m².

Utilising the stream and lake adjacent to Youngtown Primary School and within a resident facility, native trees and shrubs have been planted to encourage frog breeding (rare and endangered Green and Gold frog), bird life (35 species) specific to the area and swan and duck nesting boxes. Students and residents working together will plan, design and implement the project over a twelve month period with continued monitoring and involvement after the completion of the grant components of the project.

Whether working in a garden or a classroom, children are learning a crucial lesson: that their actions can make a tangible difference in the world around them. At the same time they are building a sense of belonging to a place. Learning is not confined to four walls. The Youngtown Primary School philosophy embraces environmental issues and this project has been an authentic learning activity for students and adults. This project has facilitated intergenerational engagement and provided students and adults now and in the future with an opportunity to learn 'in', 'for' and 'about' the environment.

Urban Landcare Award

This award will be made to a group or individual delivering projects or initiatives that inspire and involve an urban population in Landcare. Projects may be anything from on-ground works to campaigns but must have demonstrable natural resource management outcomes connected with the city.

Finalists

BELLERIVE BLUFF LAND AND COASTCARE GROUP

The Bellerive Bluff Land and Coastcare group was formed as an outcome of a public meeting in 2000 and held its first activity in early 2001. The initial focus was on soliciting members of the local community to address the degradation of the Bellerive Bluff foreshore.

The group are very conscious that they are working in a highly populated urban environment and that they need public support and engagement to successfully carry out and maintain their work. With community input and consultation they developed an Activity Plan for the area they are working on. This plan has now been sanctioned by the Clarence City Council.

The group hold monthly working bees and have encouraged residents to Adopt a Patch. This program encourages residents to take responsibility for the upkeep of a particular 'plot'. To increase the sense of ownership of the work and to ensure that more work is completed the Group have formed partnerships with several local community groups, schools and businesses all of whom participate in activities.

To supplement the group's income they run an annual membership drive with residents from the area and participate in the 'I Can – We Can' program by collecting aluminium drink cans from homes and local businesses. To help reduce costs for their on-ground works they have agreements with businesses to provide cardboard boxes and organic carpet underlay to assist with mulching.

The Bellerive Bluff Land and Coastcare Group have removed weed infestations and undertaken extensive re-planting with native species. As an example, over 1 500 plants used in the past 12 months. They have developed numerous gardens over the years and planted native species



providing gardening examples to the local community whilst also improving the environment.

The Groups' construction crew has built stairways, fences and a viewing platform to provide better facilities for local residents and visitors whilst also protecting the areas from further disturbance. They have also constructed two stormwater sediment control ponds and are monitoring the stormwater quality.

Over many years the group lobbied the Council for the provision of the 'missing links' on the Eastern Shore multi-user pathway network. The multi-user pathway now extends from Rosny College to Bellerive Beach. An additional 200m of Victoria Esplanade has been converted to one way traffic to facilitate pedestrian / cyclist facility and safety. The increased recreational use of the area by walkers, joggers, cyclists and fisherfolk has been quite extraordinary.

ANNA WIND

Anna Wind has dedicated most of her life to natural resource management. She has a particular passion for urban Coastcare which led to her appointment as the Australian Government's Coastcare Facilitator for North West Tasmania. Both in paid employment and as a volunteer Anna's positive influence in the region's urban coastal communities has been significant. Anna supports many community groups, works tirelessly for Little Penguin protection around our urban shores, has succeeded in attracting media coverage of urban coastal conservation issues and actively shares her knowledge with adults and school children.

Anna began her involvement as a volunteer in natural resource management shortly after she arrived in Tasmania 20



years ago. She joined and soon managed a volunteer group called 'Save Our Coast'. Her passion was driven by ocean pollution around a paint factory in Heybridge which was having a detrimental effect on the environment and sea life. Anna helped inspire residents in the Heybridge and Burnie City areas to successfully campaign for change in the treatment of the factory's by-products. Anna joined a number of Coastcare groups and her passion for environmental protection increased. She left her nursing career in 1996 to become the Regional Coastcare Facilitator for the Australian Government and remained in this role until 2004.

In 2006 Anna joined Cradle Coast NRM and since this time has held positions focused on community engagement and facilitation. She continues to volunteer with community groups, most notably the Friends of Burnie Penguins. Anna is a true ambassador for the environment and she is keen to ensure that our natural resources are looked after from one generation to the next. Anna is respected by work colleagues and community groups, Councils, school teachers and friends for her long-term commitment to urban natural resource management and is an inspiration to us all.

Award Categories



Leighton Holdings Indigenous Award

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

Finalist

SIX RIVERS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The 120 members of the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation manage a 550ha property on the eastern side of the Rubicon River. Since establishing a ninety nine year lease on the property the Corporation and its members have been working hard to gain a greater understanding of the cultural and environmental values of the property and to protect and improve these values.

Recognising that the area was important, culturally and environmentally, the Corporation undertook a flora and fauna survey of the property and a heritage assessment to gain a greater understanding of what was actually on the property. As part of this process they have also been recording some of the elder stories on land and land management. As a result of the surveys there will be over twenty sites registered on the Tasmanian Aboriginal Site Index. The results from the flora and fauna survey have been put into book format and are currently being published. The book will be launched in late October and all Corporation members will be provided with copy to increase their understanding of the values of the property and the flora and fauna that exists there. Additional copies of the book will be available for purchase and the profits from these sales will assist with the

on-going management of the property. To reduce the levels of vandalism and to increase community awareness of the cultural and environmental values of the property the Corporation has installed a boom gate and signage at the entrance to the property. The signage requests that the community recognise the values of the property and requests that they seek permission before visiting the property.

The Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation is currently working on a Management Plan for the property that will incorporate a broad range of elements and the partnerships that need to be developed and nurtured. The Corporation is conscious that their property borders and impacts on other areas of significance including the tidal flats of the Narawntapu National Park.

Be Natural Young Landcare Leader Award

This award will be made to an individual between the ages of 15-30 who carries out and/or promotes Landcare through on-ground or awareness activities, as a volunteer.

Finalists

MARTY BOWER

Marty is a proud and passionate Landcarer and is heavily involved in landcare activities in the Queenstown area on Tasmania's West Coast. Marty moved to Queenstown to take on the role of Coordinator with the West Coast Fire and Weed Management Group but Marty's involvement stretches far beyond this position.

Marty is the public officer of the Queenstown Landcare Group and is the driving force for ensuring that the group achieves on-ground results and the desired change in community attitudes to vegetation. Marty is also involved in weed removal along the Andrew and Franklin Rivers.

Queenstown has had a long history of disengagement with natural resource management activities. In a voluntary capacity Marty has been working, through multiple engagement strategies, to change residents' awareness of and attitudes to



their local environment and the benefits of maintaining and improving natural areas. This is a slow and sometimes tedious process, but Marty recognises the value in engaging locals in the changes that the Queenstown Landcare Group is working towards to ensure there is community pride in the outcomes they achieve.

The aim of the Queenstown Landcare Group is to improve the environment in which they live, work and play. As part of his voluntary role with the Queenstown Landcare Group Marty attends, and often organises, all the group's working bees and administrative meetings. Over the last twelve months the Group has been working to improve the public areas around Passion Park and in particular the Queen River bank in this area. With Marty's help they have removed weeds and with some funding support have successfully planted local native species. With the success of this project the Queenstown Landcare Group is now focusing on other public areas within the Queenstown township with a particular focus on a tourist lookout area.

Marty is also involved in weed removal along the Andrew and Franklin Rivers. Marty sets off with other members of the University of Tasmania group to remove gorse, blackberry and other weeds from the banks of these rivers and in many cases beyond the river

banks. These areas are highly sensitive and are protected through legislation, however this does not stop weeds from spreading along the river banks and through the vegetation. The rafting trips often take several days or in some cases more than a week but Marty gladly gives up his time as he knows the effect that these weeds can have on these magnificent natural areas.

ALLISON COOMBE

With no prior knowledge of the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania (SCAT) Alli was nominated onto the committee at the end of 2009. During 2010 she became an active committee member at SCAT's monthly meetings and at the 2010 AGM she was re-elected. The SCAT President went on maternity leave and the Secretary filled this role, leaving a vacancy in the Secretary position. At the time Alli was the Secretary of the Tasmanian Weed Society and really wanted to volunteer her time with another NRM organisation.

Alli's new role as Secretary allows her to more actively support individuals, groups and communities with coast caring activities, roles and sometimes issues. She communicates with members through letters, emails, phone and through SCAT's newsletter and website. Coming from a local government background has also allowed Alli to bring another dynamic to the committee and to relate to groups who are working in partnership (or sometimes struggling to form a partnership) with their local government. Alli also encourages member groups to apply for funding and support from SCAT's new Coastcare Facilitator and Capacity Building Officer. She encourages individuals and groups who are not part of SCAT to join to enhance their efforts and provide an opportunity for them to promote their group through the SCAT website and newsletter. Local events such as the Tread Lightly Festival have been a great way for Alli to engage with the broader community about SCAT and talk one-on-one with individuals about groups that might be in the local area and the types of Coastcare activities they could also volunteer in.

When not volunteering with SCAT or working at Glenorchy City Council, Alli volunteers her time with local care groups in the Glenorchy area and hosts annual events such as Clean up Australia Day

at Elwick Bay, where for the last two years the group has filled two skip bins with rubbish from the coast. Alli is hoping that word of mouth will help spread awareness of these activities along with the many flyers she distributes, advertisements in the Glenorchy Gazette and talks she give to the progress associations and precinct committees about the local environment and impacts to it.

Alli also volunteers her time with the local communities within Clarence City Council, the municipality in which she lives, to discuss and mediate with council about developments which are impacting upon the natural values of local communities. This mediating role has allowed Alli to volunteer her time and give back to her local community by negotiating successful outcomes and developments that are in the end more environmentally sustainable. One day soon she hopes to have some time to volunteer with her local Coastcare group in Clifton Beach.

Local Government Landcare Partnership Award

This award will be made to an outstanding local government organisation which is collaborating with its community to preserve and manage its local environment and natural resources. The organisation encourages a Landcare ethic (of local community groups caring for the land by addressing local environmental issues) and action in the local community, and cooperates on Landcare issues and projects with neighbouring organisations, businesses, other councils and landowners.

Finalists

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

Central Highlands Council punches above their weight when it comes to Landcare. The Council in partnership with their community is now able to demonstrate the achievement of significant NRM outcomes directly resulting from their investment. In the last 18 months alone this has included facilitation of farmer discussion groups working on sustainable land management issues, weed removal along large sections of roadsides, Rivercare works and re-vegetation works along the Jones River, and weed projects



around the World Heritage area and Interlaken Ramsar wetlands.

The Council has formed a long working partnership with the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee. Their funding of this committee helps the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee to employ a full time coordinator, whose role it is to implement priority actions from the Central Highlands Weed Management Strategy and Derwent Catchment NRM Plan. Both documents were strongly supported by the Council when produced and without the Council's support would never be implemented.

CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL

Clarence City Council (CCC) recognised the value of an active and thriving care group network for their municipality very early on in the beginning of the Landcare movement. They have had an NRM support team in place since 1990; this has included dedicated NRM support staff, as well as additional support from the works team, GIS support and administrative and communications support. Council have a dedicated grants budget to provide groups with funding for on-ground works. This has been in place for the past 10 years, and presently has \$30 000 available for the annual grants program. The grants program is a very clear demonstration of CCC's commitment to Landcare in the municipality.

In addition to this Council provides groups with a diversity of additional support and assistance. This ranges from the fire management team assisting with on-ground weed control, to NRM

Award Categories



support staff assisting with promotion of activities (from signage to media articles), development of plans and formation of new groups. CCC has a range of equipment which is made available to groups to assist in their activities (weed trailer, watering pump, landcare trailer). The CCC NRM support team has a first-hand knowledge of groups in the municipality. They regularly attend meetings and working bees and the support and advice that they are able to provide to groups is invaluable.

There are currently 30 active care groups in Clarence municipality, working in many reserves and natural areas. CCC has strategies in place for the reserves and the NRM program under their care. These include: Bushfire Management Strategy, Bushland and Coastal Reserve Management Strategy, individual reserve activity plans, and a NRM Communication Strategy. CCC run many projects in collaboration with multiple partners and has a strong focus on regional partnerships to help deliver good NRM outcomes for the municipality. CCC actively support and promote municipal involvement in larger activities such as Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day, Weed Busters Week and a Foreshore Cleanup program.

CCC links Landcare initiatives among many stakeholders. Council supports partnerships between businesses, Landcare/Coastcare groups, scout/girl guide groups, local rate payers and schools. For example, CCC has a Foreshore Clean up Program which provides funds to community groups (Scouts, Girl Guides, Rotary, APEX clubs

and Landcare) in return for cleanup activities. CCC encourages 'adopt a patch' agreements with local residents who wish to contribute to a local natural area managed by CCC. CCC works closely with many schools in the community, many of which adjoin natural areas managed by Council including coastal reserves, green belts, creeks, and parklands. In 2011/12 CCC is funding an official 'School Landcare Program' to enhance the partnerships already in place with some schools and to create new partnerships with other schools.

HOBART CITY COUNCIL

The people of Hobart are fortunate to have over 4 500ha of bushland on their doorstep. Because Hobart's natural areas belong to the community, the Hobart City Council acts to manage these precious assets inclusively, with foresight and integrity.

Council's partnerships with various natural resource management agencies and research bodies has led to a more collaborative approach to conservation management, applying best practice methodologies that are adaptive and responsive into the future. These external partnerships extend into the broader arena of preparedness for climate change that will assist resilience within our community.

One of the most enduring programs linking the community to the environment has been the Bushcare Program. Since 1993 a solid partnership has developed between Bushcare groups and the Hobart City Council aimed at involving the community in conserving the natural

values of its bushland areas. Most of Hobart's bushland reserves are cared for by Bushcare groups working on long-term projects, purposefully working from the highest conservation areas towards weed infested edges and outliers.

The Hobart City Council currently has 16 Bushcare groups operating within its boundaries. On average approximately 130 people volunteer for Bushcare activities each month. With additional field and training days, WeedBuster Week, Reserve Open Days, etc Bushcare volunteers contribute approximately 6 000 hours per year to environmental restoration and awareness raising activities.

Council's Bushcare Program supports the groups with policy and procedures to ensure safe, consistent, effective and efficient work practices. Cooperative planning, assistance with grant applications, insurance, supervision, tools, administration and training are supplied by Council together with a commitment for continual improvement in consultation with Bushcare volunteers. Council produces the Bandicoot Times newsletter and Working Bee flyer (distributed to approximate 800 people), maintains the Bushcare webpage and promotes community Bushcare initiatives, events and workshops.

Community education and awareness is a major component of the Bushcare program and some of the most successful campaigns have occurred in alliance with government and non-government networks who have helped either to raise funds or help prepare, promote and present events, reports, flyers or brochures that will engage the greater community in attitudinal and proactive measures that will contribute to a better environment.

Nominees

CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL

Circular Head Council has worked closely with the community over the past few years to bring about good outcomes for natural resource management. One such initiative followed evidence of gorse seed being spread in road gravel, and gorse is a Weed of National

Significance (WoNS). The Council communicated with all quarry operators in Circular Head, then under the guidance of Forestry Tasmania personnel each quarry was surveyed and the quarry operator was provided with a written report listing any weeds and recommendations for management to improve environmental outcomes.

Circular Head Council successfully applied for a seeding grant from Cradle Coast NRM in early 2010 to probe whether there was enough public interest to re-establish a local Landcare Group. Since inception the newly formed Circular Head Landcare Group (CHLG) has formed two separate partnerships with the Council to provide NRM outcomes. East Esplanade in Smithton is a public open space which includes a boat ramp on the Duck River and a walking track with sections of boardwalk. There are remnant patches of Swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*) alongside the walking track which have been degraded over the years through the dumping of garden waste, illegal removal of trees and infestations of weeds. Swamp paperbark is a threatened plant species in Tasmania and the joint project has resulted in the removal of weeds, education for local residents and on-going management by CHLG. A plan for the area was prepared by Council, and they have purchased re-vegetation plants and provided equipment to CHLG which includes personal protective equipment – vests, gloves and protective glasses, as well as secateurs, loppers, knapsack and chemical to assist weed management at East Esplanade.

Seeding willow (*Salix cinerea*) (another WoNS) was identified in the Circular Head municipality in 2008. Since then Council has provided in kind support and project management partnering with both Cradle Coast NRM (\$20,000 grant) and CHLG who received a grant of \$20,000 to work towards the eradication of this weed. Project management has included establishing Management Agreements with nine farmers on whose properties seeding willows are located. There has been considerable media coverage and a field day to encourage public awareness of the problems created by seeding willows.

Circular Head Council employs a part-time Weed Strategy Officer who also

works on NRM outcomes and liaises with the community. A joint gorse control project between Council, Parks & Wildlife Service, Grange Resources and Cradle Coast NRM was carried out on the Nut, Stanley several years ago.

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

The Central Coast municipality is located on the North West coast of Tasmania, and is home to around 21 000 people. The Central Coast Council recognises the importance of community support and knowledge in caring for the region's fertile agricultural land, spectacular wilderness areas and beaches, and iconic plants and animals (including little penguins, after which the township of Penguin is named). The Council provides direct and indirect support to care groups as well as encouraging the Landcare ethic in projects involving the wider community and schools.

The Council's NRM Officer supports eight local care groups (the North West Environment Centre, Sulphur Creek Coastcare Group, Penguin Coastcare Group, the Riverside Avenue Community Group, Ulverstone Coastcare Group, the North West Coastcare Association and Turners Beach Friends of the Dunes) with technical advice, access to tools and materials, direct financial assistance and support in applying for grants, plus promotion of community group events, such as the Penguin Organic and Sustainable Living Festival.

The Council works closely with other agencies such as the Parks and Wildlife Service and Cradle Coast NRM on larger projects and events, such as Clean-Up Australia Day and National Tree Day. The Council is also active in engaging schools in practical natural resource management activities through tree planting and weed removal.

The Council has also worked closely with the Parks and Wildlife Service to protect the West Ulverstone little penguin colony from dog attacks through the construction of 1km of penguin protection fencing, weed removal and revegetation activities. They have also held a number of awareness-raising activities to engage the community with shorebird and penguin protection.

Central Coast Council also supports Coastcare Week, National Tree Day and Clean-up Australia Day events.



DEVONPORT CITY, LATROBE AND KENTISH COUNCILS

Devonport City, Latrobe and Kentish have been partnering and supporting Landcare type activities for over a decade. Each Council continues to invest and support local Landcare group endeavours to undertake beneficial natural resource management projects within their respective municipal areas.

The Councils have also taken a broader holistic view that Landcare/NRM issues, needs and resource requirements do not recognise municipal boundaries and have sought to deal with this reality in a unique way by funding and supporting a sub-regional based initiative, Mersey Natural Resource Management Group Inc.

Through this partnership and ongoing financial investment, Councils and their respective communities have captured 'economies of scale' thereby multiplying resources that can be devolved out to their communities. Since 2000 the above Councils have jointly invested \$423 000 in Mersey NRM's operations. This has been leveraged into \$5 481 000 financial turn over for the group.

The majority of this \$5.4 million has then been invested in supervision and equipment resources (in conjunction with labour market programs) further leveraging funds to create a resource pool of labour, equipment, skills and other resources. In the past decade these resources have been used in excess of 1 400 on-ground projects across the North West and northern parts of Tasmania.

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