

# 2011 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards

## CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

- Choose the Landcare award category that most suits you, your project, group or organisation
- You can apply for more than one category, but only if you meet the criteria for each category, and submit a separate entry form with supporting documents.
- Each nomination must include supporting information (i.e. copies of plans, photos, proforma supplied and any supporting material).
- Electronic and print entries (or a combination) are acceptable.
- Each entry must be accompanied by at least one photo of the group/individual/organisation suitable for presentation/or publication.

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE LANDCARE AND NATIONAL AWARDS YOU MUST ENTER THE REGIONAL AWARDS**

### **Natural Resource Management (NRM) Award**

**This award is for excellence and innovation in creating partnerships with their Landcare community (note: refer to definition of Landcare), for natural resource and environmental management. The organisation must demonstrate that its Catchment Management 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 you must show that significant steps towards implementing the Plan, and building community partnerships are in place, and that there is support or understanding within your community for implementing the NRM plan.**

#### **Judging Criteria:**

1. Developed strong partnerships with Landcare community groups to ensure community engagement and demonstrated how this is contributing to the success of your Catchment Plans.
2. Clearly demonstrated community group engagement and support in addressing catchment plan priorities.
3. Used a multi-disciplinary approach in planning and partnerships and included environmental/production, community/social and financial strategies for achieving best practice NRM results in your catchment/region.
4. Strongly supported regional community groups involved in NRM (e.g. funding, coordination, facilities, in-kind etc).
5. Strong achievements or benefits arose from the NRM plan, showing both community and environmental benefits and outcomes (with particular emphasis on community group support) and third party investment achievements.
6. Applicants must provide 2 letters from Landcare groups that acknowledge how the NRM organisation has supported the group to improve capacity and increased participation in on-ground work.



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## 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.**

### Judging criteria:

1. Implemented Landcare practices in your own area and/or helped others including Landcare Networks, or groups) to implement Landcare practices and projects.
2. Encouraged others to be involved in Landcare (e.g. by speaking about Landcare to schools, media, landholders, groups, councils etc).
3. Trained and helped others in Landcare practices and skills.
4. Been a champion for Landcare, through achievements in Landcare projects or a primary role in planning and organising committees associated with Landcare projects.

## Landcare 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.**

### Judging criteria:

1. Used comprehensive plans e.g. property or group and/or catchment plans as a basis for your group activities. Provide a copy of your plans. These may show physical, strategic, management and other attributes of your group's work.
2. Repaired degraded land/environments or prevented degradation and/or developed some on-farm or community benefit from your group's activity.
3. Sought advice and worked with others, including the community, other Landcare environment/community groups, government, business and schools to develop your group, your plans, your industry.
4. Shared results to encourage others to be involved in Landcare practices, shared Landcare skills, outcomes, plans and ideas with your wider community (to others not involved in your group) e.g. through field days or education campaigns.



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## 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.**

1. Implemented innovative practices or activities that delivered improved productivity and commercial outcomes while improving natural resource management.
2. Improved productivity and natural resources management are demonstrated by recorded changes in key indicators such as, but not limited to:
  - 2.1 The productivity and/or commercial return per unit of limited resources (e.g. improved efficiency in the use of rainfall, irrigation or nutrients).
  - 2.2 Carbon footprint improvements (reduction in greenhouse gas emissions possibly related to fuel, fertiliser or stock feed and implementation of carbon capture opportunities).
  - 2.3 Increased biodiversity/botanical composition.
  - 2.4 Increased ground cover, particularly during periodic seasonal feed gaps and reduced soil erosion.
  - 2.5 Improved water quality from properties (with emphasis on salt and turbidity).
  - 2.6 Improved soil fertility (with emphasis on P, pH and organic C).
3. Introduced innovative practices that improved productivity outcomes on commercial scale operations. Innovation can be shown through:
  - 3.1 Use of techniques not previously applied in the geographic area or to this type of primary production.
  - 3.2 Application of practices on a commercial scale that were previously only undertaken on a research scale.
  - 3.3 Development of techniques that could significantly improve productivity outcomes while improving natural resource management outcomes.
4. Cooperated with and encouraged involvement by others in sustainable farm practices (e.g. with neighbours, other landholders, local authorities, networks or cooperatives or by sharing information in field days, workshops etc).

## 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.**

### Judging criteria:

1. Demonstrated outstanding achievement in establishing, linking, supporting and developing Landcare and production groups with a particular focus on sustainable farming practices and on-farm natural resource management. Activities that could indicate this are:
  - 1.1 Organisation of field days and seminars
  - 1.2 Coordination of hands-on activities to address on-farm natural resource management issues.
  - 1.3 Coordination and dissemination of information to farmers and farming groups.
  - 1.4 Assistance provided to farmers or groups to access financial resources to improve farming practices.
2. Demonstration of substantial contribution at the group, network or regional Landcare level.



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## 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 town/city.**

### Judging criteria:

1. Created greater awareness and understanding of important natural resource and environmental issues amongst an urban community. Give examples of media, events and other activities including approximate numbers of the people you have reached with these.
2. Generated partnerships support and community involvement in projects.
3. Improved long-term environmental outcomes for urban area suffering from the impacts of increasing population.
4. Provide examples such as before and after photographs, media clippings, testimonials from people etc. as relevant.

## 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.**

### Judging criteria:

1. Adopted or promoted sound land and/or coastal management practices to assist in the maintenance of indigenous culture.
2. Integrated Indigenous ecological knowledge and cultural practices with land management practices in their work.
3. Improved the economic, social and environmental viability of the land or their community.
4. Formed partnerships, sought advice and worked with others, for example community elders, other Indigenous and non-Indigenous Landcare groups, Indigenous government agencies, Indigenous non-government organisations, and business, to develop your plans and actions.
5. Shared Indigenous Landcare practices and ideas with the young people of the Indigenous community and the wider community.



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## 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.**

### Judging Criteria:

1. Implemented Landcare practices in your own area and/or helped others to implement them.
2. Demonstrated leadership and encouragement of others in promoting or implementing activities that improve Landcare/natural resource management outcomes; (e.g. by speaking to schools, media, landholders, groups, councils etc).
3. Trained and helped others in Landcare/sustainable agricultural practices and skills.
4. Been a champion for Landcare, through achievements in environmental sustainability projects or a role in planning and organising initiatives associated with Landcare.
5. Provide examples of the ways in which issues are communicated (including the use of media, new media, events, speeches or presentations, posters, letters etc).

## 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.**

### Judging Criteria:

1. Improved understanding of environmental uses amongst students/youth group and the community.
2. Developed the student or youth group's environmental management skills.
3. Clear indication that the group has shown leadership and inspired their school or community.
4. Helped others (e.g. other young groups and/or the wider community) learn about the Landcare ethic of local community groups, caring for the land by addressing local environmental issues.
5. Developed educational resources and formed partnerships that help young Landcarers address environmental issues.



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## 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, business, other councils and landowners. Judges will be looking for active partnerships between Landcare groups and the Local Government organisation.**

### Judging Criteria:

1. Planning, projects and programs were undertaken collaboratively with community groups and address important local natural resource management issues that generated outcomes for multiple stakeholders.
2. Strong promotion of awareness and support of community involvement through a well-structured engagement and communication strategy (e.g. funding community awareness events and projects, supporting logistical and communications needs of community groups, local environmental plans, media coverage, community bulletins etc).
3. Provided incentives to business, groups or local residents, for supporting community group projects addressing local NRM issues (e.g. rate rebates, grants, volunteer coordination, community education, equipment/resources, free local native plants, recycling and other waste re-use and reduction programs etc).
4. Linked Landcare initiatives with other councils, business, organisations, neighbours, schools and community groups (i.e. through plans and cooperative projects).

## 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.**

### Judging Criteria:

1. Developed a farming system that delivers a sustainable commercial return and demonstrably maintains or improves the condition of land and water resources.
2. Improved productivity and environmental condition of the property as demonstrated by recorded changes over a minimum of 5 years in key indicators such as, but not limited to:
  - 2.1 The productivity and/or commercial return per unit of limited resources (e.g. improved efficiency in the use of rainfall, irrigation or nutrients).
  - 2.2 Carbon budgets (greenhouse gas emissions possibly to fuel, fertiliser or stock feed and carbon capture).
  - 2.3 Increased biodiversity/botanical composition.
  - 2.4 Increased ground cover, particularly during periodic seasonal feed gaps, and reduced soil erosion.
  - 2.5 Improved water quality leaving the property (with emphasis on salt and turbidity).
  - 2.6 Improved soil fertility (with emphasis on P, pH and organic C).



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3. Integrating innovation, evaluation and improvement of management practices in a commercial scale farming system that demonstrates multiple benefits such as productivity, drought resilience, and possible income diversity and ecosystem services.
4. Cooperated with and encouraged involvement by others in Landcare farming practices over a minimum of 5 years (e.g. with neighbours, Landcare groups, other landholders and local authorities, by sharing information, participating in field days, workshops etc).

**For further information about the 2011 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards please contact your local Murrumbidgee CMA Office.**

**All entries are to be addressed to:** 2011 Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards  
Murrumbidgee CMA  
PO Box 5224  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

**Website:** [www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au)

