

2013 NSW Landcare Awards



Categories & Criteria

Calling for entries from inspiring individuals, community groups and networks.

Are you protecting or improving...your local environment, farm, coastline, native vegetation, bushland, wetland, waterway, native species, school, region, catchment, backyard?

Then enter the 2013 State and Territory Landcare Awards today. It's easy!

See inside for more details.



THE STATE AND TERRITORY LANDCARE AWARDS

are a highlight of Australia's environmental calendar. Now in their 23rd year, these Awards are about finding and recognising the achievements of those dedicated people who give up their time to care for our precious land and water resources.

Landcare is on the look-out for individuals, groups and community networks who deserve to be recognised for their work in tackling environmental issues from the ground up.

ENTRIES AND NOMINATIONS:

All nominees or applicants are required to complete the official entry form and demonstrate how they meet ALL of the judging criteria of their chosen category. This should be done in a clear and concise manner within the 1500 word limit. Please refer to the 2013 Landcare Awards entry form for further details and an entry checklist.

You may nominate yourself, a group or a person from your community for any of the award categories.

THE DEFINITION OF LANDCARE:

Landcare is a movement of individuals and groups focusing on managing the environment in their local area. Within this document, the term 'Landcare' refers to all 'care' groups, individuals and activities.

This includes: Landcare, Coastcare, Bushcare, Dunecare, Rivercare, 'Friends of' groups, farmers, professional farming system groups, natural resource management, Junior Landcare (including day care centres, primary and secondary schools, youth groups, scout groups etc), Urban Landcare and Indigenous Landcare.

THE DEFINITION OF LANDCARE ETHIC:

The term 'Landcare ethic' refers to the ethic of caring for the land carried out by local community groups. It is the partnership between community groups, schools, businesses and government working together and supporting projects and plans to address local environmental issues.

**NSW Landcare Awards
Coordinator**

Colleen Farrow
State Landcare Coordinator
Department of Primary
Industries

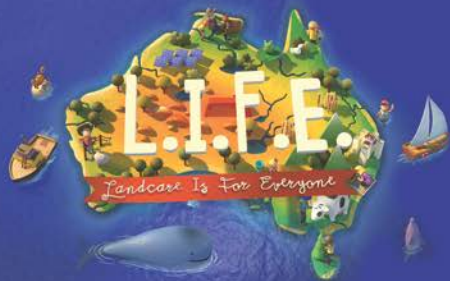
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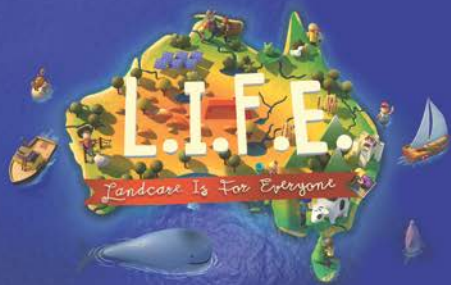
1. Individual Landcarer Award

About the Category

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

Selection Criteria:

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



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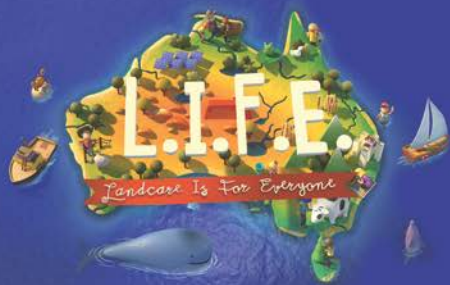
2. Partnerships with Landcare Award

About the Category

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

Selection Criteria:

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



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3. Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award

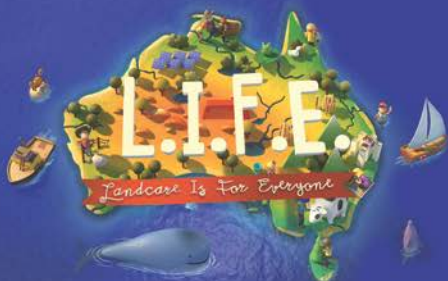
About the Category

This award will be made to a primary producer or enterprise which has implemented innovative practices or activities to improve natural resource management and productivity outcomes. Eligible primary producers or enterprises may include an agricultural co-operative, network, agricultural industry association, research group, private business or primary producer.

Selection Criteria:

1. How has the primary producer or enterprise demonstrated innovative practices or activities that deliver improved productivity and commercial outcomes while improving natural resource management?
Such improvements can be demonstrated by recorded changes in key indicators such as, but not limited to;
 - 1.1. The productivity and/or commercial return per unit of limited resources (e.g. improved efficiency in the use of rainfall, irrigation, water body (in the case of aquaculture), or nutrients).
 - 1.2. Carbon footprint improvements (e.g. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions possibly related to fuel, fertiliser or stock feed and implementation of carbon capture opportunities).
 - 1.3. Increased biodiversity/botanical composition (e.g. increase in number of bird species or diversity in site plant species).
 - 1.4. Increased ground cover, particularly during periodic seasonal feed gaps and reduced soil erosion.
 - 1.5. Improved water quality (with emphasis on salt and turbidity).
 - 1.6. Improved soil fertility, with an emphasis on phosphorus, pH and organic carbon.
 - 1.7. Improved management and handling of stock to provide both animal welfare and improved natural resource management outcomes.
2. Describe how the innovative practices or activities undertaken by the primary producer or enterprise have improved productivity outcomes on commercial scale operations. Innovation can be shown through either;





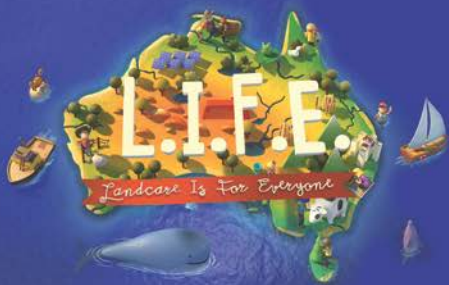
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- 2.1. The use of techniques not previously applied in the geographic area or to this type of primary production,
- 2.2. The application of practices on a commercial scale that were previously only undertaken on a research scale, or
- 2.3. The development of techniques that could significantly improve productivity outcomes while improving natural resource management outcomes.
3. Describe how the innovative practices or activities undertaken have contributed to Australia's food or fibre security. This may include a clear link to the National Food Plan.
4. Give examples of how the primary producer or enterprise has cooperated with and encouraged involvement of others in sustainable farming practices. This may include sharing information with neighbours, other landholders, local authorities, networks or cooperatives, along with participating in field days and workshops, etc.
5. Describe any challenges that were encountered by the primary producer or enterprise in the development and implementation of new practices and the strategies used to address these challenges.



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4. Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator Award

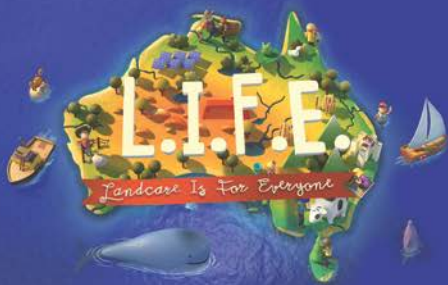
About the Category

This award will be made to a Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in establishing, linking, supporting and developing Landcare and/or production groups/networks that participate in sustainable farming practices and on-ground natural resource management, or implementation of innovative land management approaches in peri-urban areas*.

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

Selection Criteria:

1. Demonstrate how the Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator has successfully established, linked, supported and developed Landcare and production groups with a particular focus on sustainable farming practices and on-ground natural resource management, including with peri-urban landholders.
Activities that could indicate this are:
 - 1.1. Facilitated partnerships and leveraged resources to enhance group/network capacity to deliver projects
 - 1.2. Coordinated, facilitated, and delivered on-ground projects to address local natural resource management priorities
 - 1.3. Coordination and dissemination of information to farmers and farming groups, and/or to landholders in peri-urban areas
 - 1.4. Leveraged funds to provide assistance to farmers, landholders and/or groups/networks to improve farming and/or land management practices
 - 1.5. Organisation of field days and seminars
2. Show how the Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator has made a substantial contribution at the local group, district network or regional Landcare level.
3. Demonstrate how the Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator has worked to enhance farmer and/or landholder awareness of innovative land management practices and has supported the adoption of these practices.



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4. Describe any challenges encountered in the development and implementation of Landcare projects and/or the introduction of new land management practices, and the strategies used to address these challenges.

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

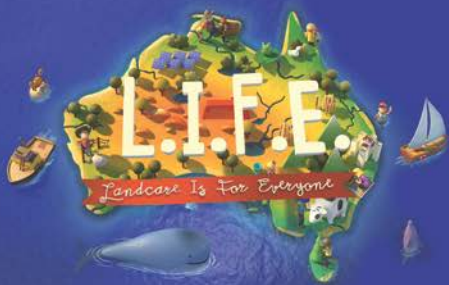
5. Coastcare Award

About the Category

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

Selection Criteria:

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



6. Qantas Landcare Innovative Community Group Award

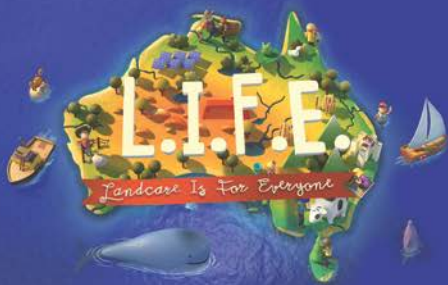
About the Category

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



Selection Criteria:

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



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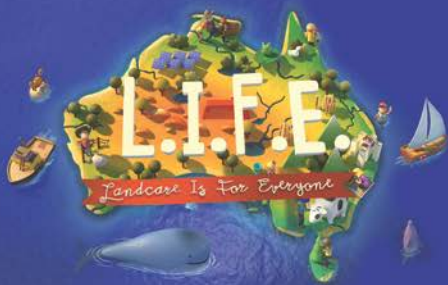
7. Junior Landcare Team Award

About the Category

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

Selection Criteria:

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



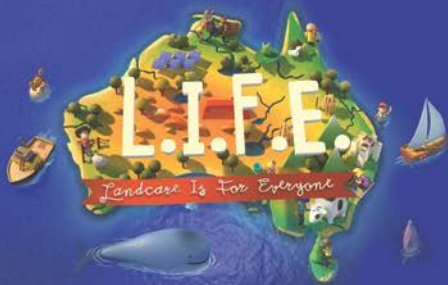
8. Indigenous Land Management Award

About the Category

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

Selection Criteria:

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



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9. Westpac Agribusiness Innovative Young Landcare Leader Award

About the Category

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

Selection Criteria:

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