2 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LANDCARE AWARDS
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Welcome

Welcome to the 2017 Western Australian Landcare Awards.

Nominations were received for nine categories in this year’s awards, honouring the valuable contributions of community groups, schools, organisations, local governments and individuals throughout Western Australia (WA).

We hope you enjoy reading the stories of this year’s WA Landcare Award finalists.

Landcare is a movement of individuals and groups focusing on managing the environment in their local area.
Award categories

Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award
An individual volunteer who has demonstrated leadership in, and commitment to improving land management practices through practical on-ground or community awareness actions.

Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award
A partnership of individuals, groups, or organisations that have demonstrated leadership and achievement in Landcare related activities because of the partnership. Nominations are open to partnerships that could include National Resource Management regional organisations, research organisations, local government, and Landcare and farmer groups.

Australian Government Excellence in Sustainable Farm Practices Award
An individual, group or organisation that has demonstrated excellence and leadership in implementing integrated land management practices to a farm property or properties that protect soils, water and vegetation.

Australian Government Innovation in Agriculture Land Management Award
A primary producer or enterprise for leadership in the discovery and/or application of an innovative farm and/or land management practice that delivers improved natural resource management and farm productivity outcomes.

SureGro Coastcare Award
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.

Fairfax Landcare Community Group Award
An outstanding community group that is working towards improving land use and/or enhancing or protecting an area on behalf of the community.

Junior Landcare Team Award
A youth organisation or young Landcare team that contributes to raising awareness, knowledge and understanding of Landcare amongst young people up to the age of 18, and implements Landcare practices on its own property or within the local community.

Rio Tinto Indigenous Land Management Award
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.

Austcover Young Landcare Leader Award
An individual between the ages of 15 – 35 years who carries out and/or promotes excellence in Landcare through on-ground or awareness raising activities.
Rob Boase has placed a conservation covenant on his property including this protected wetland – a unique environment containing endangered and rare species of flora.

Rob Boase has placed a conservation covenant on his property including this protected wetland – a unique environment containing endangered and rare species of flora.

Rob is recognised as being one of the leading experts in the Wheatbelt on its unique flora, in addition to protecting the remnant vegetation of his property...

ROB BOASE

Since the 1970s Rob Boase, along with his wife Beth, has been committed to protecting the unique, rare and amazing flora and vegetation of the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

Rob is recognised as being one of the leading experts in the Wheatbelt on its unique flora, in addition to protecting the remnant vegetation of his property at Dowerin through Landcare activities and placing a conservation covenant on the property.

Through his nursery, Arinya Plants, Rob has supported revegetation across the Wheatbelt, by cultivating some of the more difficult species. He has been responsible for his own planting of over 78 000 from his nursery and has participated in groups such as the Central Wheatbelt Threatened Flora Recovery Team, Wheatbelt NRM and the local Landcare group.

Rob is currently assisting with the cultivation of some lesser known bush tucker species for the Aboriginal NRM Program.

Rob and Beth’s property at Dowerin is a testament of how to conserve fragmented vegetation in the Wheatbelt, whilst Rob’s initiatives have resulted in his position as the custodian of an important wetland which supports a number of threatened species.
RESTORING GONDWANA PARTNERSHIP

Restoring Gondwana is a major achievement in protecting and restoring ecosystems, defending the unique flora of the South Coast of Western Australia from the deadly threat of Phytophthora Dieback and protecting vulnerable and endangered species from feral predators.

Working with local communities and businesses, landholders and recreational users of bushland, Restoring Gondwana has achieved significant environmental outcomes well beyond expectations, over an area of 60,767 hectares.

Created by a partnership of 10 environmentally focused organisations, the partnership recognised the importance of gaining long term behaviour change from a broad sector of the community and took the message to non-traditional bush stewards comprising recreational users and bush based businesses, as well environmental groups.

The partners used a variety of natural themes to connect with schools, supporting a strategy to link to the environmental stewards of the future by engaging their curiosity about the natural world.

The partnership included South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc, Gillami Centre, Greening Australia, Green Skills, North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group – Ranges Link, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group – Porongurup, Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee, Bush Heritage Australia and the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife.

...Restoring Gondwana has achieved significant environmental outcomes well beyond expectations, over an area of 60,767 hectares.

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Restoring Gondwana Partnership members established remote cameras on one of their revegetation sites to monitor fauna.
The partnership provides an exemplary model of corporate sponsorship through the funding of community-based landcare projects...

SWAN ALCOA LANDCARE PROGRAM

The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program was established in 1998 to provide urban community groups with a simple process to access funding for a wide range of landcare activities throughout the catchments of the iconic Swan and Canning rivers in Western Australia.

The Program aims to protect, restore and manage natural assets in the Swan and Canning catchments through funding community groups.

Established in 1998 and with just over 7 million dollars of funding, the program has enabled 1,298 on-ground projects in the catchment. Volunteers have contributed nearly 176,000 hours and put almost 2.4 million plants in the ground to revegetate more than 1,927 hectares of land.

SALP provides community groups with a user-friendly way to apply for environmental grants of up to $20,000 annually for each project to help deliver on-ground landcare initiatives throughout the Swan and Canning catchments.

The SALP partnership of Alcoa, Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Perth NRM is a successful model of industry, government and community working together.

The partnership provides an exemplary model of corporate sponsorship through the funding of community-based landcare projects in the Swan region and aligns closely with Alcoa’s core values of caring for people and protecting the environment.
AWARD FINALIST
Australian Government Excellence in Sustainable Farm Practices

Four local councils and almost 65,000 residents provide organic waste that is converted into a quality, organic product that is sold to farmers in the South West...

BUNBURY HARVEY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Four local councils and almost 65,000 residents provide organic waste that is converted into a quality, organic product that is sold to farmers in the South West, who produce food which feeds the residents of the South West (and beyond).

The Bunbury Harvey Regional Council commissioned a very ambitious plan to construct and operate a regional compost facility to convert municipal organic waste into a high grade soil improver, providing an affordable, long term, sustainable solution for the carbon depleted soils of the area.

Since 2012 four local Councils (City of Bunbury, Shire of Capel, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup and Shire of Collie) and their residents have been bringing their municipal organic waste and verge side green waste to the Banksia Road Compost Facility, where it has been turned into high grade compost and soil improver.

The product is being used across the South West on farms as an alternative to synthetic fertilising products for pastures, vegetable production, orchards and livestock production.

Produced in a method which exceeds the national Australian Standards (AS4454-2012), the compost has demonstrated to improve the water retention and long term health of South West soils, and in early 2017, the compost achieved Organic Certification.

A quality, organic product made from the waste of the residents of the South West for use by farmers locally, the production of this resource closes the recycling loop locally and creates a sustainable, circular economy.
STONEMEAL FARM

Farming in Narrikup since 1979, Stephen and Kerry Frost of Stonemeal Farm adopted a new regime of productivity, soil health, and food quality while reducing farm overheads.

Using the principal of promoting positive soil health, they have created a farming system which has little to no requirement for broad-acre pesticides, little to no nitrogen inputs for fodder crops, less requirement for liming, no requirement for stock mineral supplements, has reduced veterinary interventions and is primarily self-sustaining in fodder production.

They have also given their time to contribute to the wider farming and science communities to share their learnings. They have shared their knowledge through hosting on-farm events to demonstrate their farming practices, partnering with researchers and presenting at many local, regional and state events.

Minerals and microbes were reintroduced back into the soil, introduced fire resistant fodder trees and perennial pasture species, improved soil organic carbon, protected riparian and remnant vegetation, and adopted alternative land uses such as commercial native cut flowers.

With improved soil, other farm overheads have reduced considerably.

Stephen and Kerry Frost have moved to direct drilling of perennial grasses into established pasture without the use of herbicides.

The reduction of pesticide use has seen an increase in dung beetles and beneficial predatory insect species.

Stonemeal Farm is now a highly profitable Merino enterprise producing prime lambs and wool.
NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL – COASTAL AND MARINE PROGRAM

The Northern Agricultural Catchments Council’s Coastal and Marine team has excelled at community engagement and capacity building in the past year achieving outcomes outlined in our Coastal and Marine Program Strategy.

Striving to meet its core objective “to catalyse community conservation” within coastal and marine environments, the team has continued to show leadership in NRM by adhering to best practice management and also developing innovative project management strategies.

Guided by their Coastal and Marine Program Strategy, activities have included funding to community groups for interpretative signage aimed at educating coastal users in sustainable practices and extensive weed control programs to remove Pyp grass and African Boxthorn form coastal dunes.

Drawing upon their combined experience, leadership and commitment, the team has supported Coastcare groups, and broader coastal communities, extremely effectively in their efforts to address challenging management issues in our region, such as coastal erosion, dune restoration and estuary monitoring.

Throughout the year the team has continued to develop more innovative ways to increase community engagement and prioritise natural resource management outcomes through research and networking with all coastal stakeholders, particularly community groups, regional NRM organisations and both local and state government agencies.

The team’s considerable contribution to the Coastcare community was recently recognised by the Australian Coastal Councils Association when they were awarded the Coastal Community Engagement category at the national 2017 Australian Coast Awards.

Striving to meet its core objective “to catalyse community conservation” within coastal and marine environments, the team has continued to show leadership in NRM...
As a result of excellent weed management and planting methods there is 2.85 km of Spearwood dunes in pristine condition...

STIRLING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COASTCARE INC.

Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare’s (SNEC) dedication to the coastal environment is evident through the pristine state of their project sites.

Their commitment to developing the most effective methods of coastal environmental management – and particularly integrated weed management has resulted in the completion of two significant mapping projects in conjunction with Fisher Ecology.

These projects have not only provided comprehensive data including weed and native flora cover/species/species biomass of the entire City of Stirling coastline, but have also led to innovative approaches to weed management and monitoring that can be utilized by the land managers, contractors and volunteer groups for effective future planning and implementation of coastal restoration.

As a result of excellent weed management and planting methods there is 2.85 km of Spearwood dunes in pristine condition where total eradication of the weed species *Euphorbia paralias* has been achieved.

A project site within the Quindalup dune system also demonstrates the group’s commitment to the environment which was carried out as a three year staged project to restore 1.1 km of dune system from Peasholm Street to Brighton Beach along West Coast Highway in the City of Stirling.

This area has been restored with increased native species cover and has reached a healthy ecosystem maintaining a high level of natural biodiversity. *Euphorbia paralias* was also eradicated from 3.55 km of Quindalup fore dune through the commitment of SNEC volunteers.
WOODSIDE COASTAL GUARDIANS PROGRAM

A key component of the Woodside Coastal Guardians program is providing coastal communities the opportunities to be involved in conservation in their local area.

By helping to achieve important objectives within WA’s coastal management plans, the program has directly contributed to significant on-ground coastal management in WA.

Now coming into its seventh year of operation, the program continues to provide exemplary on-ground environmental backing and leadership to local government areas, Perth NRM Coastcare and community ‘Friends Of’ groups across WA.

Woodside Employee volunteers celebrating a long day of marine debris collection and analysis on Rottnest Island.

AWARD FINALIST
SureGro Coastcare Award

In 2011 Conservation Volunteers Australia and Woodside Energy implemented the Woodside Coastal Guardians program with the aim of providing leadership and catalytic action to equip local communities with the capacity to achieve priority conservation objectives along Western Australia’s coastline.

Since the program’s inception, Coastal Guardians has successfully contributed over 896 days of volunteering to 38 coastal land care managers, helping to build their capacity by providing coordinated, regular and safely managed teams of trained volunteers.

A key component of the Woodside Coastal Guardians program is providing coastal communities the opportunities to be involved in conservation in their local area. This involves engaging individuals as volunteers and connecting with different community groups to assist them with their conservation goals.

Over 44 500 volunteer hours have been dedicated to conservation activities including 320 792m² of invasive weed removal, planting of 67 361 stems, removal of 12 685kg of marine debris and construction of more than 4km of fenceline to prevent footprint degradation to dune systems.
As the Goldfields oldest, largest and most active community environmental group, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG) is committed to conserving the environment and working with other community groups, schools, business and government.

Established in 1994 as a Landcare group replacing the Goldfields Dust Abatement Committee (formed in 1973 in response to severe dust storms that detrimentally affected the entire Kalgoorlie-Boulder community), KPULG has lobbied for the conservation of the Goldfields environment for over 40 years.

A not-for-profit organisation with limited resources, KBULG’s success is attributed to its creative and effective methods to engage and mobilise various agencies and political decision-makers for environmental projects.

The group runs a community nursery in Karlkurla Bushland Park and has established an Eco and Cultural Education Centre within the nursery.

KBULG has evolved from a local Landcare group (office based in town) that focused on raising environmental awareness through community events, to the principal environmental knowledge sharing hub of the Goldfields and driving force behind innovative environmental initiatives (now located in Karlkurla Bushland Park; 200 hectares).

In August 2016, KBULG project managed the removal of 765 tons of cacti (five declared species) from Williamstown. This was a fantastic community effort and is a great environmental outcome for the state.
THE MOORE CATCHMENT COUNCIL (INC.)

The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) is a community led not-for-profit organisation set up in 1995 to “maintain and improve the health of the Moore River environment by communicating natural resource management and encouraging maximum sustainable use of resources.”

Working at grass roots level to maintain and repair the Moore’s natural environment, MCC encourages sustainable farming and land management practices, and builds community capacity in conserving the Moore River catchment against current and impending threats.

Achievements include the successful completion of 60 projects to the value of $5.7 million over the past 22 years, with 13 more projects in progress.

MCC prides itself on effective and productive stakeholder engagement with local government, departments, industry, community members and groups, landholders, and Aboriginal community.

Some of MCC’s current key priorities are creating Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo forage and breeding habitat, planting multi-beneficial shrub systems on farms, and sharing Aboriginal knowledge and providing Working on Country opportunities with the local Yued community.

With limited resources and a drive to be efficient, creative and innovative, the work ute has been creatively converted to carry over 2,000 seedlings for delivery – twice the number it could previously carry and so has halved delivery trips.

...McC encourages sustainable farming and land management practices, and builds community capacity in conserving the Moore River catchment...
As a Noongar elder and leader from the Great Southern region of Western Australia, Eugene Eades has made an outstanding contribution to advancing both Noongar society as well as caring for country as part of the Gondwana Link conservation program in the lower South West.

Since 2006 Eugene has run a program of ‘cultural connections’ from Nowanup, near Boxwood Hill (about 130km north east of Albany) with a focus on helping with the healing of stolen generation and assisting Noongar youth ‘at risk’ to get their lives back on track.

After the initial property visit with Elders, Eugene was first funded by the CDEP program to establish a Noongar meeting place and associated program on Nowanup. From 2007 to 2011 Eugene was employed by Greening Australia as their Noongar Liaison person, during which time he established an ongoing cultural program, run from the property.

Since then Eugene has further developed the program. Financially tenuous at times, the program has seen 1000-2000 people pass through each year and Eugene’s program has gained a state wide reputation.

During this period the basic infrastructure has been maintained and improved.

The program of camps has been utilised by a diverse range of people and organisations, including members of the Stolen Generation, young Noongar sent out by the courts, students from various universities, Wirrapanda Foundation, Department of Child Protection, local schools and corporate figures.
AWARD FINALIST
Rio Tinto Indigenous Land Management

SPINIFEX LAND MANAGEMENT

Anangu Pila Nguru (Spinifex People) are the original managers of the Spinifex Lands and have been doing so for thousands of years. Across such a long history, it is only in very recent times that new threats have developed in these lands and a combination of traditional and contemporary land management practices have needed to evolve to reduce those threats and keep Spinifex people, culture and land healthy.

The Spinifex Land Management (SLM) program is the product of that evolution – an indigenous ranger program, a Healthy Country Plan (HCP) developed by the rangers and the community, and a diverse network of partnerships providing technical support and resources.

SLM is based in Tjuntjuntjara, the second most remote community in Australia. The program works on the northern fringes of the Nullarbor Plain and deep within the Great Victoria Desert. Every ranger patrol is a logistical feat and an adventure on country and is carefully planned to ensure appropriate cultural and ecological outcomes and the safety of participants.

The Spinifex HCP has identified nine key projects including reducing the threats of buffel grass, camels, altered fire regimes and introduced predators.

In May 2017 nearly the entire Tjuntjuntjara community participated in a camp at Ilkurlka. The Elders took the Spinifex Rangers to the remote and inaccessible locations and passed on traditional knowledge, and on this important basis developed contemporary fire management plans.

Sunset at Ilkurlka on the last day of the inaugural Southern Deserts Indigenous Ranger Forum, June 2017.
In these three categories, whilst great landcare work has been accomplished in the past two years in Western Australia, no winners will be awarded in 2017.

Australian Government Innovation in Agriculture Land Management Award

Junior Landcare Team Award Finalists

Austcover Young Landcare Leader Award
Thank you

Thank you to everyone who nominated for the 2017 Western Australian Landcare Awards.

Thank you also to the judging panel who volunteered their time to assist in selecting this year’s finalists, and to the Awards sponsors for their continued generous support.

Winners will each receive a photo block featuring WA landscapes by local photographer James Deypalan.

Winners of these Awards are eligible to compete in the prestigious National Landcare Awards to be held in 2018.

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