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MEDIA RELEASE

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Beechworth Primary recognised for Landcare ethos

Beechworth Primary School is the winner of the Landcare Education Award in the 2006 North East Landcare Awards.

The School was presented with the Award tonight (25 August) at a ceremony in Wodonga that also celebrated 20 years of Landcare in Australia.

The Landcare Education Award is made to an individual, school or Landcare group based on their contribution to raising awareness, knowledge and understanding of Landcare amongst students and/or the community, and for implementing Landcare practices on it's own property or with the local community.

Awards organiser and North East CMA Landcare Team Leader, Mr Tom Croft, said Beechworth Primary's innovative approach to environmental education would help future generations.

"This School uses an impressive range of projects and practical activities to instill the Landcare ethos amongst its students. They are committed to developing a generation that will be aware of land degradation and have the skills needed to address environmental problems."

Some of the School's key contributions and achievements to Landcare include;

- Worm farms – two grades have operational worm farms and are using worm 'juice' (castings) to enrich vegetable gardens;
- Erosion control – the school community has terraced an embankment area and created a Fairy Tree garden to correct and prevent soil erosion;
- Wetland rehabilitation – the school has set aside an area that contains springs to develop a natural watercourse and pond area for research and to encourage the re-establishment of native flora and fauna;
- Wildflower area – the school grounds include a 'no mow' area that contains indigenous grasses, orchids and flowers;
- Recycling – with the exception of new rivets in the roof, the school built a hen house from recyclable materials;
- National Tree Day – the children have supported planting days around Lake Sambell and Spring Creek for many years;
- Using Landcare resources – the school contacts many natural resource management agencies and community groups for advice and expertise.

Tom Croft said the North East Landcare Awards highlighted the diversity and impact of the Landcare movement in the Region.

"These Awards encourage and recognise the outstanding commitment to Landcare from a diverse range of individuals and Landcare groups across the North East. Although Landcare is best known for tree planting, our winners demonstrate the incredible diversity of activity going on in our Region."

The annual Awards are run by the North East CMA and proudly supported by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Action Plan for Second Generation Landcare.

For additional information or an interview please contact,

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