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Mudgegonga named Landcare Community Group of the Year

The Mudgegonga and District Landcare group has won the Community Group Award at the 2006 North East Landcare Awards.

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

The Community Group Award is presented to a Landcare group or network that has promoted or demonstrated sound land management practices on public or private land and is working towards sustainable land use and or protecting an area for community benefit.

Awards organiser and North East CMA Landcare Team Leader, Mr Tom Croft, said Mudgegonga Landcare Group was a resilient, independent and resourceful group that formed positive relationships with support organisations.

“Sustainable agriculture has been a key theme for this group over the last few years. Its members use property and group plans to guide their work and are keen to access the help of agencies. They are making an impressive contribution to the repair of their local environment.”

Key contributions and achievements of the Mudgegonga and District Landcare group include;

- Undertaking approximately \$1.4 million worth of works, including about \$400,000 (four hundred thousand) of volunteer labour over the last ten years – these works are designed to improve water quality in the Barwidgee and Happy Valley Creeks and tributaries by repairing degraded gullies to reduce erosion and improving biodiversity;
- Planting a total of 336,000 (three hundred & thirty six thousand) trees and shrubs in the Mudgegonga district in the last ten years
- Undertaking business planning, whole farm planning and participating in a Soil Health program
- Actively seeking support and advice from many agencies in order to progress sustainable agriculture, including the Department of Primary Industries, North East CMA and the Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation
- Supporting the launch of the DVD “Conflict and Contradiction – feelings and experiences of being on the land” at Mudgegonga Hall, including a feature segment on ABC TV’s 7.30 Report;
- Distributing a regular newsletter to more than 200 landholders in the district

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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