



NORTH EAST
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MEDIA RELEASE

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North East Landcare Award winners announced

A beef cattle farming family from the Kiewa Valley and a member of the Baranduda Landcare group have taken out the 2008 North East Landcare Awards.

Landholders and members of community groups from across the North East gathered in Beechworth tonight (7 November) to celebrate the spirit of those who volunteer through Landcare.

The two major winners were:

- **River Health Award– McIntosh Family, Yackandandah**
- **Individual Landcarer Award – Glen Johnson, Baranduda Landcare group**

21 people with a combined involvement in Landcare of some two 280 (two hundred & eighty) years also received Active Service Awards at the event.*[complete list of recipients on following page]*

Awards organiser and North East CMA Landcare Team Leader, Tom Croft, congratulated the winners and thanked all Landcare groups for their contribution to the community and environment.

“There are 55 (fifty five) Landcare Groups and Networks in the North East Region. These volunteers undertake a range of works to help protect and enhance the natural resources of our Region,” said Tom.

The McIntosh family received the River Health award in recognition of their significant contribution to the sustainable management, conservation and rehabilitation of a waterway.

The family runs a 962 Ha (2,378 acre) beef cattle farm that has seven kilometres frontage to the Kiewa River and a six kilometre length of Finn Creek. Since 2005 the family has;

- Erected 13.8 kms of fencing to control stock access to 6 kms of Finn Creek and 2.8 kms of the Kiewa River.
- Protected 102 ha of River-Red Gum forest adjacent to the Kiewa River;
- Revegetated 6.5 ha of eroding creek banks;
- Installed 13 troughs (permanent off stream watering points); and
- Protected 17.4 ha of remnant vegetation along Finn Creek.

As a result of their work, water pH (acidity) in the creek has stabilised, EC (salt levels) in the creek have fallen; and turbidity has improved.

Glen Johnson joined Baranduda Landcare in 1998, has been the secretary since early 2001 and has been the driving force behind the group’s activities.

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North East Landcare Award winners announced (continued)

He has been pivotal in securing grants and is passionate about weed control issues. As a result, Baranduda Landcare has an ongoing program of woody and broadleaf weed control and a very successful Patterson's Curse biocontrol program.

Glen has contributed a phenomenal number of hours of service to the group and has organised a wide range of events and ongoing programs, including

- school and community tree planting days
- nest box construction and monitoring
- ecological burns (in association with CFA)
- post burn weed control programs and the
- the annual "Up the 'Duda" Baranduda Range 4WD awareness tour.
- biological control agents for pattersons curse and blackberry
- collection and propagation of rare and endangered local flora
- creation of guides for revegetation of the Baranduda district

The North East Landcare Awards encourage and recognise the outstanding commitment to Landcare from a diverse range of individuals and Landcare groups. They are run by the North East CMA and proudly supported by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Action Plan for Second Generation Landcare.

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Winners of 2008 Active Service Awards :

Mr	David	Evans	Greta Valley Landcare Group	10 years
Mr	Ernest	Handcock	Greta Valley Landcare Group	10 years
Mr	Jim	De Hennin	Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group	10 years
Mr	Alan	Stephenson	Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group	10 years
Mr	Greg	Hayes	Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group	10 years
Mr	Owen	Gemmill	Wooragee Landcare Group	10 years
Mr	Michael	Hedderman	Carboor Bobinawarra Landcare Group	15 years
Mr	Daniel	Taylor	Whorouly Landcare Group	15 years
Mr	Tim	Walpole	Whorouly Landcare Group	15 years
Mrs	Caroline	Pizzey	Whorouly Landcare Group	10 years
Mrs	Elizabeth	Walpole	Whorouly Landcare Group	15 years
Mr	Gary	Baxter	Whorouly Landcare Group	15 years
Mr	John	Matheson	Whorouly Landcare Group	15 years
Mrs	Pam	Matheson	Whorouly Landcare Group	15 years

Mr	Hugh	Dunchue	Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group	15 years
Mr	Peter	Star	Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group	15 years
Mr	Alan	Gibb	Carboor Bobinawarra Landcare Group	20 years
Mr	John	Stokes	Carboor Bobinawarra Landcare Group	20 years
Mrs	Jean	Box	Carboor Bobinawarra Landcare Group	20 years