



2008 North East Landcare Awards

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

Landcare and community groups, and individuals are all encouraged to nominate for any categories. Other than Service Awards, category winners will automatically be nominated for the Victorian and National Landcare Awards.

Finalists in each category will be included in articles in local papers, and placed on the North East Landcare Website <http://northeast.landcarevic.net.au>

How to Nominate

You may nominate for one or more of the award categories by:

1. Completing the nomination form enclosed and
2. Providing no more than two A4 pages addressing the criteria of each award
3. Providing photographic evidence, media articles (etc) where possible

All nominations will be assessed for eligibility against the relevant category criteria. Judges may visit, by appointment, properties and sites nominated for relevant awards. Judges decisions will be final. Previous winners of major categories (other than Service Awards) will not be eligible for the same category, but may nominate for other categories.

Nominations close **4 pm Friday 8th August 2008.**

Please return your nomination form and application addressing the award criteria to:

Regional Landcare Awards
North East Catchment Management Authority
P.O. Box 616, Wodonga Vic 3689
Email: tom.croft@necma.vic.gov.au

Awards Categories

Landcare Active Service Awards – 5, 10, 15 or 20 years

These awards will be made to recognise people who have provided the appropriate number of years of active service to a Landcare or related group. Nominations must be made by someone other than the nominee, eg another member of a Landcare group.

Criteria:

1. A person who has provided the relevant years of service as an active executive or committee member of a Landcare or related group.
2. All nominees who meet this criteria will receive an award
3. *Nominees who have received previous awards may be eligible for the later service award, eg if previously received 5 year award, may be eligible for 10 year award if relevant.*
4. *Nominations need only specify the positions held by the person, and the years of service in these roles.*

Individual Landcarer Award

This award will be made to a person who carries out and/or promotes Landcare or sustainable production through on ground or awareness activities, as a volunteer.

The judges will consider the extent to which entrants have:

1. Implemented Landcare practices in their own area OR helped others to implement Landcare practices.
2. Have encouraged others to be involved in Landcare (eg. by speaking about Landcare to schools, media, landholders, groups, councils, etc).
3. Encouraging/ training others in Landcare practices and skills.
4. Being active in Landcare projects or on planning and organising committees.

Community Group Award

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.

The judges will consider the extent to which entrants have:

1. Used comprehensive plans eg. property and/or group plans as a basis for Landcare group activities. Provide examples of your plans. These may show physical, management and other attributes of the group's work.
2. Demonstrated success in involving a wide range of their community in Landcare and sustainable agriculture.
3. Repaired degraded land/environments or prevented degradation and/or developed some on-farm and/or community benefit from the group's activity.
4. Sought advice and worked with others, including the community, other Landcare groups, government, business and schools to develop group, plans and actions.
5. Shared Landcare practices and ideas with the wider community (others not involved in group) eg. field days, education campaigns.



Sustainable Agriculture Award

The Sustainable Agriculture Award is presented to a landholder whose primary production (e.g. agriculture, aquaculture or horticulture) has made significant contributions to Landcare and sound land management practices and sustainable productivity.

The judges will consider the extent to which entrants have:

1. Adopted long term sustainable land and water management systems.
2. Maintained or improved productivity and environmentally sustainable land management practices.
3. Implemented a property management plan that encompasses the principles of the Regional Catchment Strategy.
4. Successfully integrated land protection and sustainable land use with commercial farming (eg. the management of plantations, shelterbelts, revegetated areas and soil conservation).
5. Managed areas (such as creeks, hills, dams, wetlands, unimproved pasture, native remnant vegetation) for conservation and biodiversity within the farm system.
6. Demonstrated effectiveness in utilising pest plant and animal controls that are integrated with other aspects of land management.

Nature Conservation Award

The Nature Conservation Award is presented to a community organisation, person or Landcare group for excellence and innovation in implementing nature conservation activities on land outside formal parks and reserves.

The judges will consider the extent to which entrants have:

1. Contributed to the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems and/or species and/or riverine and/or remnant ecosystems.
2. Raised awareness of the presence, importance and better management of remnant native vegetation, to maintain bio-diversity.
3. Linked project to, or plans to link with, existing protected areas (eg. parks, formal reserves) or other conservation areas (eg. on other farms and/or other private land with similar protected areas).
4. Encouraged the wider community to investigate, protect, promote and care for or manage remnant native vegetation.

River Health Award

This award will be made to a community organisation, person or Landcare group which has made a significant contribution to the sustainable management, conservation and rehabilitation of a waterway (ie. river, streams, creeks and wetlands).

The judges will consider the extent to which entrants have:

1. Developed or participated in a Waterway Action plan for sustainable management and/or rehabilitation of your waterway.
2. Integrated project into relevant local and regional action plans and is widely supported by the community.
3. Achieved an improvement in waterway health (eg. water quality, riverine biodiversity and riverbank stability) as a result of the project.
4. Consulted and worked with others, including the community, government and business to help achieve sustainable natural resource management for your waterway.



Landcare Education Award

This award will be made to an individual, school or Landcare group – either as a whole or as a unit, class or special group. The Award is for the nominees 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.

The judges will consider the extent to which entrants have:

1. improved the understanding and skills of student group and/or the community.
2. planned and implemented learning activities, including on-ground actions/projects (ie extend the learning and skills development classes into practical on-ground activity).
3. helped others (eg. students and/or the wider community) learn about Landcare.
4. developed cross curricula or community activities or resources which recognize and use the Landcare ethic.
5. Used sound planning, consistent with good Landcare principles and the project is supported within the organisation.

Agency Award (Government or Non Government)

This award will be made to a government or non- government organisation for excellence in preserving and managing its local environment and encouraging a Landcare ethic and action in the local community, and cooperating on Landcare issues with neighbouring organisations/councils/landowners.

The judges will consider the extent to which entrants have:

1. Applied Landcare principles to planning, works and programs.
2. Actively promotes Landcare and a Landcare ethic in its community through reporting mechanisms (eg. Local Environment Plans, media coverage, community bulletins, mayoral columns, community awareness events etc).
3. Provides incentives to local residents and groups to help them understand the Landcare ethic and use sustainable practices. (eg. rate rebates, incentive programs, grants, volunteer coordination, community education, etc).
4. Links its Landcare initiatives with other organisations, neighbours and community groups (eg. through plans, and cooperative projects with community groups, other councils and catchment groups).

Indigenous Landcare Award

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

The judges will consider the extent to which entrants have:

1. Adopted sound land management practices to assist in the maintenance of indigenous culture
2. Integrated cultural practices with land management practices;
3. Sought advice and worked with others, for example community elders, other indigenous and non-indigenous Landcare groups, indigenous government agencies, indigenous non-government organisations, and business to develop your group, your plans and your actions;
4. Shared indigenous Landcare practices and ideas with the wider community (others not involved in your group).