



The National Landcare Facilitator

Newsletter - September 2011

C4OC Funding Announced During Landcare Week

During Landcare Week the Federal Government announced that over \$31 million will be invested in 116 Landcare, sustainable agriculture and pest and weed management projects this year as part of the Caring for our Country Program.

The announcement was made by Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator Joe Ludwig, as part of Landcare Week at the Farmer of the Year Awards in Sydney where he acknowledged the success of the initiative in bringing the community together to work on environmental and agricultural projects.

“Amongst other things, these collaborations work to restore and better manage our landscapes, improve farm practices and care for our land,”

“These important projects aim to ensure the survival of our agricultural industries, and protect our natural resources for future generations,” Minister Ludwig said.



Minister Joe Ludwig Presenting the Young Farmer of the Year Award to Jan Vydra

Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Dr Mike Kelly said, projects covered a wide range of areas, from new social media approaches to help farmers adopt better land management practices, to major rehabilitation and conservation efforts. Dr Kelly said “It’s wonderful to see what can be achieved through commitment and dedication from local communities, which is reflected in the scope and diversity of this year’s successful projects.”

While there is a great diversity in the projects that have been funded, which reflects local needs, there has been a significant level of interest from the community and industry for projects which relate to the management of soil and soil health through a range of techniques such as grazing management, cropping systems and bio char. This demonstrates that the level of innovation within the Landcare movement is alive and well and reflects recent research by the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Science (ABARES) which found that improving soil quality was one of the major motivators for management practices amongst land managers.

Projects funded include \$79,750 for North East Darling Downs Landcare Group in Qld for biological farming systems on the Darling Downs, \$295,680 to Heytsbury District Landcare Network to improve soil condition and biodiversity, \$108,702 to Victorian No-till Farmers Association for sharing knowledge of no-till farming, \$257,319 to Richmond Landcare Inc. for evaluating the long term impacts of biochar on soil carbon and soil pH, \$626,000 to Barkly Landcare & Conservation in the NT for Parkinsonia control and making productive gains through adaptive grazing. The Ag Excellence Alliance in South Australia has been funded \$435,000 for a social media project to help deliver agricultural extension around soil condition and landscape conservation in South Australia.

For further information about Caring for our Country, including a list of funded projects, visit www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/funded/11/landcare/pubs/successful-projects-landcare-2011-12-first.pdf. Note that funding is broken down on a state by state basis.

The announcements by Minister Ludwig relate to funding associated with Landcare, pest and weeds and sustainable agriculture.

President Obama Introduced to Landcare

In a great illustration that “luck is when preparation meets opportunity”, David Lowe who is involved with Landcare in the USA, had a chance meeting with President Obama at Martha's Vineyard, (an island near Boston, Massachusetts) and took the opportunity to give Landcare a plug.

David gave the President two books on Landcare called Landcare “Local action – global progress” and another about Landcare in Australia. Who knows, when the President visits Australia in November this year – he may well wish to follow up on Landcare as it started here all those years ago (well that would be nice anyway!).



Consultation Report of CFOC Review Released

In February this year the Federal Government invited people to take part in a public discussion about Caring for our Country. Since then, over 4000 community members, stakeholders and governments have provided input through online conversations, formal submissions, video segments, case studies, and face to face meetings.

The key themes from the community consultation (as outlined in the report) were;

Community skills, knowledge and engagement - There was a keen focus by respondents to the review on improving the way the Australian Government develops policies and invests in plans and activities to increase community skills, knowledge and engagement, with 20 per cent of the total comments in the review making reference to how the Australian Government can work with the community to improve local ownership of issues and increase the level of involvement of the Australian public in natural resource management

Indigenous natural resource management - Many people who participated in the review emphasised the cultural, social and economic significance of caring for country to Indigenous people and suggested this needs greater recognition as a key aspect of the initiative. Respondents supported

improving the Indigenous component of Caring for our Country not only through funding projects, but by improving the organisational capacity of groups and pursuing opportunities for Indigenous groups to grow economically and commercially. In addition, there was a call for better engagement of Indigenous representatives in developing Caring for our Country.

Natural resource management planning and alignment of investment priorities - There was broad acceptance of the Australian Government's role in setting national priorities and providing leadership but the majority of people participating in the review said they would like to see greater evidence of complementary priority setting and planning between governments and natural resource management organisations.

Setting investment priorities and ways of investing - Overwhelmingly, respondents called for better alignment of planning frameworks in Caring for our Country, with greater linkages between national visions, priorities and targets and on-ground local actions. While some recognised that the Australian Government should take leadership in some areas, many said they wanted to understand and be involved in how the Australian Government developed investment targets and approaches.

Regional delivery - There was overwhelming support from the community around the principle of regional delivery. There was a mixed response, however, about the degree of Australian Government investment in regional delivery through regional natural resource management organisations. There were mixed views about the performance of regional natural resource management bodies in supporting community groups and community projects and there were calls for government to improve operational governance in some cases.

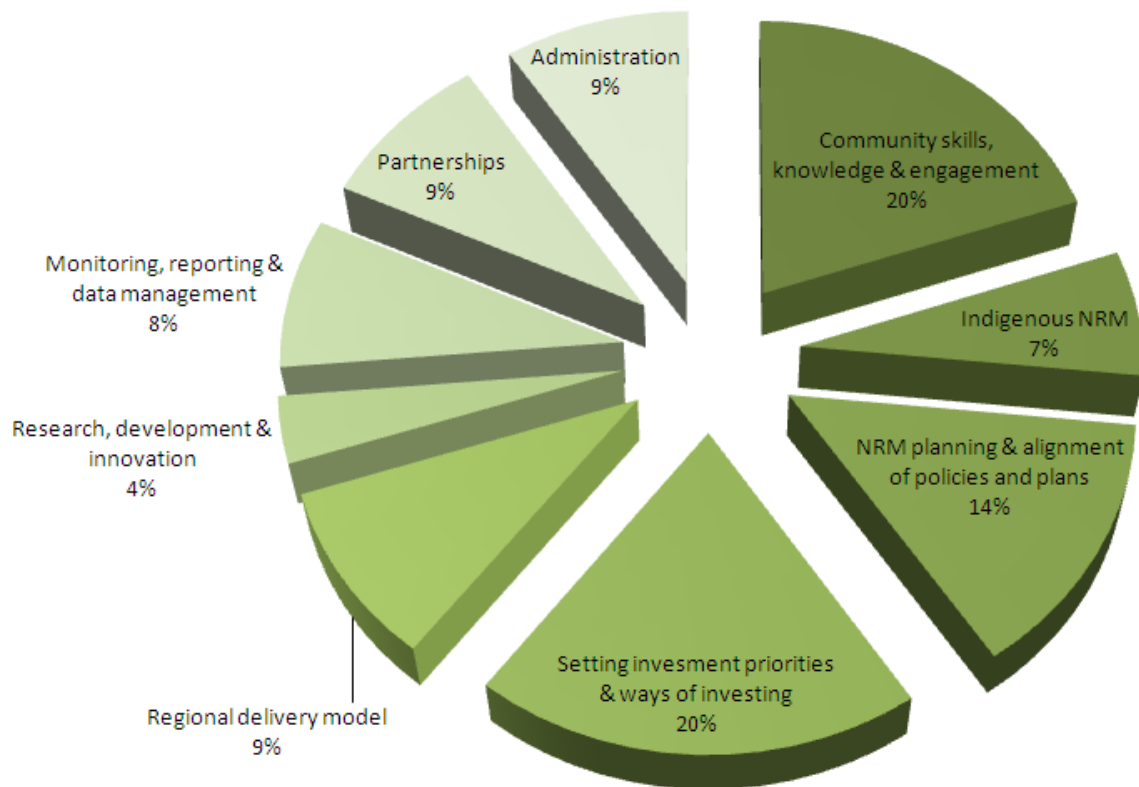
Innovation, research and development - The concept of investing in innovation, research and development was supported by a number of people. In particular, comment focused around enabling landholders to experiment in and implement innovative practices, supported by research findings.

Monitoring, reporting and data management - Many respondents acknowledge the importance of being able to measure progress and success but say they have found the current requirements under Caring for our Country complex, costly and onerous. They suggest Caring for our Country monitoring and reporting should be consistent with plans for national environmental accounting. People want the data generated by the initiative to come back to them in meaningful and useful ways so that organisations and communities can build on and learn from past actions.

Partnerships - Respondents value partnerships in developing natural resource management projects and delivering on-ground outcomes. Industry partnerships are particularly sought after and future programs should focus on facilitating these. There is a strong belief that reforms to the current highly competitive open call process under Caring for our Country would have a more positive impact on the ability to develop partnerships.

Caring for our Country administration - Respondents appreciated the effort the Australian Government has gone to in making improvements to the annual business plan in reaction to community feedback. There was general support for the clarity of the business plan approach but also a desire to see significant improvements to the application process, client services and grant administration timelines.

Key themes identified through the consultation phase



Further information go to: www.nrm.gov.au/publications/pubs/the-story-so-far.pdf.

NSW & Queensland State Governments Announce Landcare Funding



At the recent NSW Landcare conference in Parkes, the NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Primary Industries, Troy Grant (pictured left) announced \$2m over four years to help support the running of Landcare in NSW as well as a \$2m grants program. While details are not yet available, this increased level of support for Landcare in NSW by the state government is very encouraging.

Also the Queensland State Government recently announced three years of baseline funding for Queensland Water & Landcarers to assist with its operations and insurance for Landcare groups of \$300,000pa and \$40,500 for the Green Nomads Program. For more details go to:

www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/mms/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=75757.

ABARES Report – Options for On-farm Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases in Australia



The Australian Bureau of Agricultural & Resource Economics & Science (ABARES) recently released this report which while general in nature should provide a useful resource. It covers issues such as;

- Land use patterns in Australia
- Sources and sinks of rural greenhouse gases
- Options for on-farm mitigation
- Emissions abatement potential
- Challenges for mitigation and incentives

For more information go to: [ABARE Publication](#)

25th Anniversary of Landcare in Victoria - 1986-2011

Growing Sustainable Communities Conference – 15th November



In November a number of events will be held around Victoria to mark the 25th Anniversary of Landcare. One of the highlights will be a full day conference to be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday 15th November 2011 with guest speakers such as Andrew Campbell and John Williams.

The conference invites Landcarers and supporters to come together for a day of exciting presentations and interactive sessions and provides the opportunity to:

- share successes over 25 years with inspiring stories of landscape change.
- learn about growing the Landcare movement in the next 25 years.
- meet Landcarers and likeminded people from around the state.

This is a conference for Landcare members, volunteers, support staff, stakeholders and supporters, sustainable farmers, environment and friends groups, teachers and students, local government councillors and staff, and government professionals. Numbers are limited and some quotas apply to ensure that everyone has the best possible opportunity to attend. Register before 7 October to have the best chance of securing your place. For registration details visit [Landcare gateway](#).

Present a workshop or seminar - The conference organisers are calling for expressions of interest in presenting workshop and seminar sessions, along the following broad themes: Growing the future –

sustainable primary production, Staying connected – a healthy Landcare community, respecting our country – challenges and solutions. It is intended that workshop sessions would run for about 50 minutes with a varying number of participants. Deadline for expressions of interest is 24 September 2011. Contact David Rooks on tel: 5952 3331, Mob 0418 115 935 or enquiries@eventsupport.com.au

Landcare Australia Launches \$300,000 in Community Grants through Raymond Borland Bequest

Individual grants of up to \$30,000 are now available to support community groups and other organisations in New South Wales to undertake projects that will repair and restore the natural environment thanks to a generous bequest from Sydney businessman, Raymond Borland, to Landcare Australia.

Through the Raymond Borland Bequest, Landcare Australia is providing total of \$300,000 for the grants which will go towards repairing and rehabilitating degraded non-urban land and non-tidal waterways in New South Wales. During extended journeys through country NSW, Raymond Borland, a Sydney businessman, became gravely concerned about the extent and severity of landscape and water quality degradation that he often encountered. He was also impressed by the outstanding achievements of local Landcare groups in repairing degraded areas, such as eroded gullies and riparian areas, and protecting the biodiversity of native habitat.

Raymond Borland resolved to assist future generations preserve and enjoy the integrity of our natural assets and as a result, his estate provided a bequest to Landcare Australia to be used for rehabilitating degraded natural environments in rural and non-tidal areas of New South Wales. The first project funded through the Raymond Borland bequest, the Durness-Borland Landcare corridor, was launched in Tea Gardens yesterday, September 11th, at a community planting day on the project site, where the community grants were also announced.

This Durness-Borland Landcare Corridor is a substantial biodiversity corridor that is being established in the coastal hinterland of the lower Myall River, which will extend from the coastal lowlands to the coastal ranges over 70 kilometres, and rise from sea-level to an elevation of 650 metres. The majority of habitat revegetation and regeneration is being undertaken on Durness Station, a large 4,000 hectare beef grazing property owned by Nepean, which lies just north and west of Tea Gardens.

For more information on the grants program, including guidelines, criteria and application form, please visit the funding page on www.landcareonline.com.au.

Other Funding Opportunities

Grants of up to \$22,000 are on offer as part of the 2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, said the awards support young people aged 18 to 35 years who have an innovative project that will benefit Australia's agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and natural resource management sectors. "The awards aim to encourage the uptake of science, innovation and technology in rural industries and help to advance the careers of young people through national recognition of their research ideas."

There are a number of industry category awards available to applicants, supported by research and development corporations, including animal welfare, cotton, dairy, fisheries and aquaculture, grains,

horticulture, new and emerging rural industries, pork, viticulture and oenology. Winners can use their funding for a range of activities including research projects, industry visits or to attend conferences and workshops.

Following an additional application and judging process, one of the industry category award recipients will then receive the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Award, which provides an additional \$33,000 in funding to further develop their research project. Applications for the awards close on Friday 18 November 2011. For further information and application forms visit www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards. email scienceawards@abares.gov.au or contact 02 6272 2260.

Farm Ready Grants re-open – The program re-opened on 1 July 2011 and changes will be introduced to extend the availability of funds and make the program accessible to more primary producers. The Minister also announced that the Farm Ready Reimbursement Grants will be expanded to include agritourism and food tourism training.

Primary producers and wild game harvesters will now be entitled to a reimbursement of 65% of the costs of approved courses. Each primary producer can still claim up to a maximum \$1500 each financial year, with funding up to \$500 also available to assist with travel, accommodation and child care expenses. The arrangements for indigenous land managers will not change and they will be eligible for a 100% reimbursement of the cost of approved training courses up to the maximum of \$1500 annually. For further information about FarmReady visit: www.daff.gov.au/farmready.

Be Natural Landcare Grants - Up to \$5,000 to 25 local groups to help with the projects which have not received funding in the last 12 months – Closes October 10th. www.landcareonline.com.au/news/archive/be-natural-landcare-grants-now-open.

MobileMuster - \$2,000 grant for groups working on coastal projects close September 30th. www.landcareonline.com.au

Victoria: 25th Anniversary of Landcare Grants - \$600,000 helps Landcare in Victoria mark its 25th birthday. On Friday 29 July 2011, Mr Ryan Smith, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, announced that the Victorian Government has made available \$600,000 to help fund activities to mark the 25th Anniversary of Landcare in Victoria. For more information: www.landcarevic.net.au.

State Landcare Conferences & Other Dates

- Queensland, Ayr 22-23rd September – www.landcare.org.au/CONFERENCE.htm.
- World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, Brisbane 26-29 September - <http://www.wcca2011.org>.
- Carbon Farming Conference, Dubbo 28-29th September – www.carbonfarmingconference.com.au.
- Tasmania, Stanley 9-10th October – www.taslandcare.org.au/tlca.html.
- Northern Territory NRM & Landcare Forum 13th October Darwin - www.territorynrm.org.au/news-events/2011-nt-landcare-awards/landcare-forum.
- **Landcare in Action: National Landcare & Catchment Management Conference 2012** - NZ Landcare Trust will host a 2-day conference starting 29th February 2012 at the Academy of Performing Arts, University of Waikato Campus, Hamilton, New Zealand. The event will celebrate the work of numerous Landcare Groups from all around New Zealand and provide an opportunity to explore the role that communities play in sustainable land and water management. The

conference will include keynote and workshop sessions, Landcare Group presentations, a celebration meal, and optional field trips. Detailed planning is currently underway and more information will be made available on the conference website. Email: conference@landcare.org.nz

Regional Landcare Facilitators

These are now in place in most NRM regions across the country and are hosted by a variety of organisations such as Landcare Networks, CMA's/Regional Bodies and industry groups. Funding for one full time RLF (up to \$150 000) has been allocated by the Federal Government to each region and some regions have opted to split this across a number of part time positions. For the contact details for the RLF in your region go to: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/contacts/landcare.html#regional>.

Items for NLF Newsletter – If you have any events or items you would like included in the NLF Newsletter, please email them to me at the email address below.

To sign up for the NLF newsletter go to: <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/about/the-national-landcare-facilitator/nlf-e-newsletter/>

Regards,

Brett de Hayr - National Landcare Facilitator

Ph: 0457 750 815

Email: brettdehayr@landcarefacilitator.com.au.



The National Landcare Facilitator Project is funded by the Federal Government