



## Landcare In Focus Update

### A Journey Starts with a Single Step

November 25th marks the date of the launch of Australia's first formal Landcare group program near St Arnaud in Central Victoria. From here Landcare went on to spread across the country and in 1989 Rick Farley of the NFF and Phillip Toyne of the ACF successfully lobbied the Hawke Government to commit itself to the emerging community movement.

***"It might have been an irresistible political alliance, but it was such an unlikely one - conservative farmers and radical greenies". (Phillip Toyne in his 2006 Rick Farley Memorial Lecture).***

The vision and drive shown by people 25 years ago and in the years since, has left a legacy of national and international importance. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that Landcare continues to evolve and grow to meet the challenges of today.

The 25th Anniversary of Landcare in Victoria will be celebrated with a number of events. One of the highlights will be a full day conference to be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday 15th November. For more information go to [www.landcarevic.net.au /25years](http://www.landcarevic.net.au/25years)

**Caring for Our Country Funding Announced -** During Landcare week in September Minister Ludwig announced over \$31m in funding for Landcare, pest and weeds and sustainable agriculture projects. While there is a great diversity in the projects that have been funded, there was a significant level of interest from the community and industry for projects which relate to the management of soil and soil health. For a full list of projects on a State by State basis, go to [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

**Obama Gets to Read about Landcare -** In a chance meeting in Martha's Vineyard near Boston in the USA, American Landcarer, David Lowe got to present two books on Landcare to President Obama - one called Landcare "local action - global progress" and one called "Landcare in Australia". Hopefully President Obama gets time to read these on his way to visit Australia next month.

**Consultation Report on CFOC Review Released -** In February this year the Federal Government invited people to take part in a public discussion as part of the review of its \$2 billion Caring for our Country program. Since then over 4000 community members, stakeholders and governments have provided input.

**For more information go to:** [www.nrm.gov.au/publications/pubs/the-story-so-far.pdf](http://www.nrm.gov.au/publications/pubs/the-story-so-far.pdf)

**For more information or to sign up for the monthly e-newsletter go to:** [www.landcarefacilitator.com.au](http://www.landcarefacilitator.com.au) or call Brett de Hayr on 0457 750 815.

#### Other Contacts

- **Caring for Our Country Regional Offices, Weeds, Departmental Contacts:**
  - [www.nrm.gov.au/contacts](http://www.nrm.gov.au/contacts)
- **Landcare Australia Limited:**
  - [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

*The National Landcare Facilitator is an initiative of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry*



**Australian Government**