



The National Landcare Network is the voice of Landcare and Landcarers at the national level. The NLN Board members are nominated by each State and Territory.

**ACT** Board member:

Peter Bridgewater

[www.landcareact.org.au](http://www.landcareact.org.au)

**NSW** Board Member:

Rob Dulhunty

[www.landcarensw.org.au](http://www.landcarensw.org.au)

**NT** Board Member:

Sue McKinnon

[www.landcarent.org.au](http://www.landcarent.org.au)

**QLD** Board Member:

Geoff Elliot

[www.qwalc.org.au](http://www.qwalc.org.au)

**SA** Board Member:

Gerry Butler

[www.landcaresa.asn.au](http://www.landcaresa.asn.au)

**TAS** Board Member:

Anthea Fergusson

[www.landcaretas.org.au](http://www.landcaretas.org.au)

**VIC** Board Member:

Terry Hubbard

[www.vlc.org.au](http://www.vlc.org.au)

**WA** Board Member:

Keith Bradby

[www.landcarewa.org.au](http://www.landcarewa.org.au)

## LANDCARE FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Long-awaited information about both the \$100 million for Landcare promised in December 2016 and the allocation of money through programs under the next phase of the National Landcare Program has finally been released.**

Announcements from the Ministers of Environment and Energy, and Agriculture and Water Resources, outline the following:

- Phase 2 of the National Landcare Program (NLP2), with \$1 billion of funding, will run from July 2018-June 2023. A new website with information about this program has been launched: [www.nrm.gov.au/national-landcare-program](http://www.nrm.gov.au/national-landcare-program).
- Regional funding under NLP2 will be delivered through the Regional Land Partnerships program. This will deliver \$450 million in funding over five years. Consultation on the design of this program will begin immediately, with public information sessions beginning in October. Go to [www.nrm.gov.au/regional-land-partnerships](http://www.nrm.gov.au/regional-land-partnerships) for more information.
- The majority of the \$100m has been allocated to the new Smart Farms program. This includes \$24 million for 'Building Landcare Community and Capacity' as well as two grants programs of \$50 million and \$60 million. Roll-out of this funding will begin in the current financial year.

The NLN broadly welcomes the announcements and the government's undertaking to consult thoroughly on the design of some aspects of the new programs. Based on the information available, it seems likely that the main opportunities for funding for community Landcare will be through Smart Farms, the Regional Land Partnerships Program, and \$5 million worth of Environment Grants. Landcare organisations will need to work closely in partnership with others involved in natural resource management in order to ensure as much of these funds as possible flow to on-ground groups.

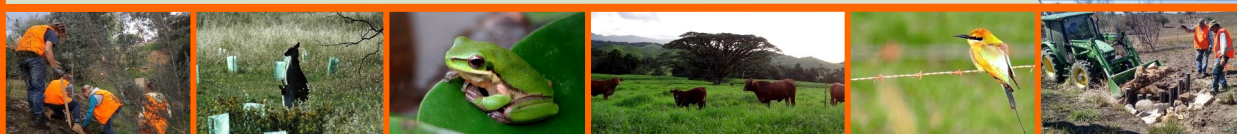
There are several points on which Landcare will continue to work with the Australian Government and other partners to ensure the government meets its commitment to delivery funding to on-ground community and farming groups. In particular, the eligibility criteria for the grants available through the Smart Farms program will have to be carefully designed to ensure this money is accessible to Landcare groups. Failure to do this would leave many of the over 5000 Landcare groups across the country struggling to continue without resources, despite their huge efforts to protect, conserve and manage Australian land and seascapes.

It should also be remembered that the new phase of the National Landcare Program will be funded with a 20% reduction compared with the first phase, as the same amount of funding will now cover five year rather than four as was previously the case.

**The NLN strongly urges everyone involved in the Landcare movement to attend the government's consultation sessions, review the consultation paper, and complete the online survey. It is essential that we participate in this process if our voices are to be heard. Follow the links below to contribute.**

[www.nrm.gov.au/publications/regional-land-partnerships-consultation-paper](http://www.nrm.gov.au/publications/regional-land-partnerships-consultation-paper) and [www.environment.au.citizenspace.com/biodiversity-conservation/national-landcare-program-regional-partnerships/](http://www.environment.au.citizenspace.com/biodiversity-conservation/national-landcare-program-regional-partnerships/)

The announcements so far show how \$872 million of the \$1.1 billion will be allocated; we look forward to further detail about how the remaining \$248 million will be spent.





*"It will be, without a doubt, one of the finest short walks in Tasmania"*

Work started this week on a new nature trail from Williams Road, Randalls Bay, which will provide walking access to the summit of Echo Sugarloaf State Reserve. The community will benefit

from this development being built by the Friends of Randalls Bay Coastcare group volunteers with the assistance of a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF), the Parks and Wildlife Service, and a local contractor, Walking Track Services. Landcare Tasmania is acting as the project sponsor, managing the contract and funds from the TCF.

The track has been surveyed and marked by Martin Hawes from Cygnet. When complete, the 2.5 kilometre walk will lead visitors through damp gullies and tall eucalypt forests, past a beautiful natural frog pond, up into open grassy forests and then onto the ridgeline of Echo Sugarloaf, with sensational 360 degree views, including across the Huon River to the rugged peaks of southwest Tasmania. Passing through varying habitats, walkers may encounter a wide range of birds, including threatened species like the swift parrot and wedge-tailed Eagle, pademelons, bettongs and other marsupials.

It is also the habitat of Tasmanian devils (rarely seen during the day). Walkers will also enjoy a diversity of plants, from old-growth eucalypts and native grasses to delicate orchids. While the lower part of the track will be suitable for casual walkers, the climb to the summit, which will take about an hour and a half return, is of medium difficulty and more suitable for reasonably fit bushwalkers. It is hoped that the new walking track may be officially opened and ready for public use before Christmas and the summer holiday period.



Friends of Randalls Bay Coastcare



The National Landcare Network is supported by funding through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.







### Members' Council Representatives

Find out who is representing your state or territory

#### ACT Council Members:

- Anne Duncan
- Martine Franco
- Karissa Preuss (Deputy Chair)

#### NSW Council Members:

- Rob Dulhunty
- Chris Scott
- Sonia Williams

#### NT Council Members:

- Anna Boustead

#### QLD Council Members:

- Darryl Ebenezer
- Phil Moran
- Peter Stevens

#### SA Council Members:

- Parry Agius
- Sandy Edwards
- Patrick O'Connor

#### TAS Council Members:

- Rod Knight
- Peter Voller

#### VIC Council Members:

- Beth Ripper
- Kaye Rodden
- Sandy Mackenzie

#### WA Council Members:

- Keith Bradby
- Louise Duxbury (Chair)
- Helen Watkins

### Invitation to Participate in the Recent Ecological Change in Australia Project

The Department of the Environment and Energy, together with the CSIRO, are undertaking an investigation to understand how Australia's biodiversity has been changing in recent years.

As a part of this project they are seeking to understand how the 1°C increase in surface temperature experienced over the past century may have contributed to recent changes in biodiversity across the Australian landscape. They are very interested in hearing about the experiences and observations of people who are familiar with different parts of Australia. Their insights and stories will provide a unique view of how things are changing.

To participate, you need to be able to select a natural area (e.g. your local region or farm, a Nature Reserve, urban bushland) that you have been familiar with for at least the last 10 years. The Department is interested both in areas where change has, and has not, been observed.

The survey can be found [here](#) and is made up of a series of observational questions and an open section for people to tell their stories. It should take about 30 minutes. More information about the project can be found [here](#). The survey is open until the end of the year.



### 2017 State and Territory Landcare Awards Underway

Winners of the 2017 State and Territory Landcare Awards have been announced in WA, Victoria and South Australia. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners so far!

Other states and territories will be holding their award ceremonies in the coming months. Upcoming events include:

NSW—26th October in Albury, as part of the Landcare NSW and Local Land Services Conference.

Northern Territory—22nd November in Darwin, Hosted by Territory NRM.

Queensland—24th November in Brisbane. Awards hosted by Queensland Water and Land Carers.

Tasmania—2nd December in Launceston. Hosted by Landcare Tasmania.

### LANDCARE SURVEY - please help

We'd love you to fill out a very quick survey (five short questions) telling us a little bit about your involvement in the Landcare movement.

The survey can be found [here](#) or accessed from the NLN website at [www.nln.org.au](http://www.nln.org.au).





**A brand new video has been launched by Landcare NSW to showcase the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare celebration of the *Building Bridges to Boorowa* Landcare/Bushcare program.**

The [short six minute video](#) tells the story of the 17 year partnership between Sydney-based Bushcare volunteers and the Boorowa farming community.

Every year since its inception 17 years ago, around 30 Sydney-based volunteers have travelled to Boorowa, a farming community near Young, to lend a hand to local Landcarers and farmers. The volunteers plant native trees, shrubs and groundcovers to create wildlife corridors and address environmental degradation such as erosion and salinity.



An event held earlier this year saw Landcarers, Bushcarers, students and parliamentarians gathered at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability in Sydney to celebrate the positive impact of city and country volunteers.

This event was the first reciprocal visit, with a group of 50 children, farmers and Landcarers from Boorowa making the 670km round trip to plant native species in a pre-

vious area of bushland on Sydney Harbour.

*Building Bridges to Boorowa* is a successful partnership that has achieved remarkable results. Over 50,000 trees have been planted on more than 40 properties in the Boorowa region creating benefits for local and migratory wildlife (including threatened species such as the Superb Parrot).

Without the support of these city volunteers, planting on this scale would be difficult and costly.

For the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (PFL) the event was an opportunity to see firsthand how Landcare is helping local communities. The PFL continues a longstanding tradition of bipartisan support Landcare has enjoyed since it started nearly 30 years ago.



**Meet your Members Council - Darryl Ebenezer, Queensland**



Darryl brings to the Landcare movement his experience in the non-Government and environment sectors. He is currently in the role of Executive Officer with Queensland Water and Land Carers. Prior to this he worked for Landcare Queensland as General Manager. He has also been the manager of Barung Landcare based in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Darryl is currently a Non-executive Director of the Maleny Credit Union.

Two main areas have occupied Darryl's attention over the long-term - activating and mobilising people to become involved in worthwhile projects, and seeking long-term sustainable outcomes to assist people to achieve those aims.

**Photos in this edition courtesy of:** Miranda Gardner, CSIRO, Darryl Ebenezer, Ginninderra Catchment Group, Landcare NSW, Landcare Tasmania

**Why the Fairywren?** With one species or another of found in every corner of Australia, we thought these little birds would do a good job of raising the voice of the national representative body for Landcare across the country.

