



Media Release

Tuesday, August 5th, 2014

Landcarers in the North Recognised Through New Awards Program

NRM North and Landcare Tasmania are running a community awards program to celebrate 25 years of landcare.

The awards open today and aim to recognise individuals, community groups, primary producers, businesses, and school/youth groups who have made an outstanding contribution to landcare in the NRM North region.

The awards are supported by funding from the Australian and State governments.

NRM North's Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said NRM North was pleased to be able to partner with Landcare Tasmania for the awards.

"We have hundreds of passionate people in the NRM North region who are dedicated to improving their local patch," Mr McKee said.

"These volunteers are crucial in the management of our natural resources and we want to assist them any way we can and also raise awareness of the fantastic work they do."

The landcare movement celebrates its 25th birthday this year and has grown to more than six thousand landcare groups and more than 150 farming groups across the country, from the city to the bush, attracting people both young and old.

Landcare Tasmania Executive Officer, Mark Ritchie, said these individuals and groups had been instrumental in achieving significant agricultural, environmental and social outcomes.

"The last 25 years has shown what can be done when groups work together and these awards will celebrate their successes but also mobilise the next generation of community volunteers to continue to take up the challenge for the next 25 years."

The award categories are aligned with the biannual Tasmanian Landcare Awards to enable applicants to easily adapt their submissions for the state awards in 2015.

Winners will receive an award and a voucher to assist with their landcare efforts.

Entries close on September 1st and the winners will be presented with their awards at a function in Launceston on September 29, following the NRM North AGM.

The award categories are:

- **Individual Landcarer Award** – This award recognises the efforts of an individual volunteer in promoting Landcare in the NRM North region through on-ground work or community awareness activities.
- **Community Group Award** – This award will be made to an outstanding community group in the NRM North region that is working towards sustainable land use and/or is undertaking on-ground action to protect, enhance or restore an area on behalf of the community.
- **Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award** – This award recognises a primary producer or enterprise in the NRM North region which has implemented innovative practices or activities to improve natural resource management and productivity outcomes.
- **Junior Landcare Team Award** – The award will be presented to a school or youth group in the NRM North region which has implemented landcare practices on school grounds or within the local community. This award is open to primary and secondary schools and youth groups such as scouts.
- **Indigenous Landcare Award** – This award will be presented to an outstanding community group or individual that is working to promote indigenous culture in the landscape.

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