



## *Media Release*

### ***Winners of the Break O'Day Council & NRM North Community Velvet Worm Award***

***Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 2011***

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Two community groups have been recognised for their outstanding achievement in the protection and enhancement of the environment in the Break O'Day region.

The Break O'Day NRM Committee has awarded the Velvet Worm Award to the North East Understorey Network and the Bird Observers North East, (Birds Tasmania). Each group received \$500 in recognition of their achievements.

The award is funded by the Break O'Day Council and natural resource management organisation NRM North.

Mayor Robert Legge, said the award recognised outstanding work in the protection and enhancement of the region's water, land, biodiversity, atmosphere, and coastal and marine environments.

"The North East Understorey Network and the Bird Observers North East Group play an instrumental role engaging the community and raising awareness of the Break O'Day region's natural values." Mr Legge said.

Understorey Network President, Janet Drummond, said it was an honour to accept the award on behalf of the group.

"The prize money will be used to further the work of the network in promoting the protection of existing native vegetation, and the use of locally sourced native understorey in revegetation projects throughout the State."

Liz Znidersic from Birds Tasmania said the award was wonderful recognition for the birding group.

"Our observations of bird species in habitats are vital pieces of data in the Australian and Tasmanian data base.

"This valuable information means informed decisions can be made by government organisations and non government organisations. We have made strong links with community groups and schools.

“We acknowledge and appreciate the support from the Parks and Wildlife Service and NRM North.”

The St Helens Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger in Charge, Lionel Poole, said all the applicants were worthy of recognition.

“The North East Understorey Network and the Bird Observers North East Group in particular are outstanding contributors to their local environment.

“They won because of their community awareness raising activities, projects and field trips.”

The NRM Break O’Day Facilitator, Alison Hugo, said the Velvet Worm Award for Natural Resource Management was named after two species of rare and threatened velvet worms that are unique to Break O’Day.

“The criteria for the Velvet Worm Award focuses on biodiversity and the importance of the many species of plants and animals we share the planet with.”

The previous Community Velvet Worm Award was won by the North East Bioregional Network and The Friends of Bay of Fires.

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