



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Miranda Gardner, ACT

Category: Austcover Young Landcare Leader Award

Miranda is passionate about preserving the natural environment. Since moving to Australia in 2010 she has advocated tirelessly for Landcare at a local, regional, and national level, professionally and as a volunteer. A natural leader, Miranda has been instrumental in nurturing positive relationships between the Landcare community and the government. This has been demonstrated in her positions with the Southern ACT Catchment Group, National Landcare Network, and the ACT Natural Resource Management Council.

As Executive Officer of the National Landcare Network (NLN) Miranda was a powerful advocate for the Landcare community. She worked closely with government and other key stakeholders to promote and further the work of the network and its members. Passionate about engaging the community in the work of Landcare, she regularly speaks at public forums and events; inspiring and encouraging others to join the movement.

One of Miranda's major achievements has been her involvement in Icon Water's award-winning Source Water Protection Program. The program involved collaborating with local Landcare networks, the Regional Landcare Facilitator and other partners to identify areas where Icon Water help deliver training initiatives to improve land management and public behaviour. This included a number of courses for landholders, covering topics such as how to spray for weed control in environmentally sensitive areas, reduce chemical use, and improve grazing management decisions.

Miranda has also represented the Landcare community as a member of the ACT Natural Resource Management Council, drawing on her experience, leadership and vision for Landcare to advise the Government in its strategic approach to natural resource management investment in the region. She also negotiated with the ACT Government to fund and oversee the development of group strategies for the Southern ACT Catchment Group and Ginninderra Catchment Group.

Two years ago Miranda was elected chair of the Southern ACT Catchment Group (SACTCG), a community Landcare network, after serving the group as a committee member for five years. Her involvement in the group has given her the opportunity to work closely with the Landcare community; collaborating on educational and on-ground projects with a community-corporate approach.

One of these projects included the Parkcare and Share Program. In an effort to engage with other Landcarers, SACTCG hosted local catchment groups for a series of workshops. The workshops were opportunities for fellow Landcarers to meet and showcase examples of best practice land management.

Within the group Miranda has worked towards securing its future by strengthening its governance, accountability and professionalism. With this goal she has helped committee members to improve the group's policies and procedures.

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





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Like many Landcare volunteers, Miranda's biggest challenge is balancing her volunteering commitments with her day job and young family. With a strong desire to contribute personally to the preservation of the natural world, she is always willing to help wherever she can. In addition to chairing SACTCG, Miranda also volunteers with Waterwatch, Red Hill Regenerators and Tuggeranong Lake Carers.

Landcare is a grassroots movement that harnesses individuals and groups to protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment and its productivity. Groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella work on a diverse range of environmental projects and include farmers embracing sustainable farm management and any community group that partakes in volunteer environmental activities. To find out how you can become a Landcare volunteer and for full details on all 2018 National Landcare finalists, visit www.landcareaustralia.org.au

Ends

For further information, photographs or interviews contact:

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Web Summary

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