



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Sally Moylan, ACT

Category: Rio Tinto Indigenous Land Management Award

Sally Moylan is a proud Wiradjuri woman who has proved herself to be an asset to ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS), playing an instrumental role in the region's Grassland Restoration Project and the Murumbung Ranger Network, working to regenerate native grasslands, supporting the enhancement of threatened species, and engaging with Traditional Custodians.

Sally started working for the ACT Government in July 2014 in the City Services Horticultural Unit, later joining the PCS Fire Management as a Bushfire Fighter in late 2015 and subsequently progressing to become a senior field officer in the PCS Urban Reserves Grasslands Project.

The Grassland Restoration Project aims to improve the adaptive management of grassland ecosystems in Canberra's Nature Parks with an emphasis on improving and expanding habitat for threatened species. During the timeline of this project, Sally has been crucial in trialling site-specific managed disturbance to increase habitat diversity for threatened species by undertaking ecological burning, strategic stock grazing, integrated pest management, reinstatement of surface rock and biodiversity monitoring.

Sally is also heavily involved in the PCS Aboriginal Cultural Fire Program and its on-ground delivery in grasslands and wetlands. Sally's work has been instrumental in caring for not only ACT parks and reserves but also the broader cultural landscape, significant to local Traditional Custodians. Additionally, Sally also has a leadership role in the Murumbung Ranger Network, a collective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff across the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

A key focus for the Murumbung Rangers is undertaking cultural burning in conjunction with the Fire Management Unit and local Traditional Custodians. Sally is involved in all stages of the burns, including planning, site preparation, and assessment, burn implementation and liaison with the local community. She has also taken a leading role in promoting and interpreting the burns to a wide range of stakeholders to incorporate cultural knowledge of native flora and fauna species and Aboriginal seasonal knowledge into fire regimes. Sally's work in understanding how the impact of fire regimes has helped create linkages between cultural burning to gain ecological outcomes to repair the landscape back to its natural state and protecting culturally significant areas.

Burning can influence ecological conditions, encouraging the establishment and vigorous growth of native species over weeds, promoting flowering in native forbs and facilitating the re-establishment of perennial tussock grasses. The aim of these burns is to create a landscape with a patchy structure of short, medium and tall vegetation. This variability is known to provide the greatest benefit to grassland fauna. Burn areas range in size from 5 to 10 hectares. Overall, around 200 hectares of grassland will be involved in the treatment.

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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Ecological burn trials will occur during spring and autumn months. These ecological burns are being planned and implemented to minimise the impact on threatened fauna and maximise biodiversity response, which Sally has been heavily involved in.

In 2014, Sally won both the ACT and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Awards that are coordinated by the Department of Education. After winning the national award, Sally became the ACT Government Ambassador for Vocational Education and Training where she engaged many young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and helped mentor them into formal training in environmental science and caring for Country. Sally's background and her strong cultural values translate to her work environment in challenging situations, where she is not afraid to speak up from a position of knowledge and integrity.

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 2016 National Landcare finalists, visit www.landcareaustralia.org.au

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Web Summary

Being a strong Wiradjuri woman, Sally Moylan's background and cultural values translate to her work environment in challenging situations, where she is not afraid to speak up from a position of knowledge and integrity. Her ability to influence non-Indigenous staff and decision-makers to consider incorporating Indigenous knowledge into modern-day land management practices has been a distinct asset. In 2014, Sally won both the ACT and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Awards that are coordinated by the Department of Education. She is integral to ACT Parks and Conservation Service, playing an instrumental role in the region's Grassland Restoration Project and the Murumbung Ranger Network.

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