



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Jacob Betros, NT

Category: Austcover Young Landcare Leader Award

Jacob Betros has gained experience in Landcare from Tasmania, Queensland, and Philippines and now uses this expansive knowledge to implement sustainable agriculture techniques and programmes across the Northern Territory as the North Territory regional Landcare facilitator at Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM). Jacob works to identify and support opportunities for land managers and groups to develop partnerships, access funds, and build capacity and skills to manage natural resources.

His current role sees him administering community support grants which focus on improving the natural resource base of the Northern Territory. Jacob works with over ten industry and community groups on a range of sustainable agriculture projects. One of the longer term projects involved partnering with the Darwin Aquaculture Centre and the Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation in West Arnhem Land.

Jacob has been heavily involved with a recent Integrated Pest Management (IPM) trial with Northern Territory Farmers Association. This project has expanded the knowledge and capacity of farmers to better manage their production systems by connecting them to best-practice experts in IPM. The project has allowed for peer to peer demonstration of IPM practices to maximise social diffusion of knowledge, achieved through a range of activities including an on-farm demonstration field day.

In July 2017, Jacob was tasked with organising and running the Northern Natural Resource Management Forum, held in Darwin with over 70 people attended the event to learn from industry leaders including Indigenous ranger groups, local councils, the Northern Territory Government, Charles Darwin University, and Landcare Northern Territory.

As regional Landcare facilitator, Jacob has facilitated over eight unique events, increasing the capacity of over 200 land managers relating to weed management, sustainable forestry, regenerative soils, horticulture, and various facets of grazing land management. He has also run a Healthy Soils Symposium, assisted with the Horticultural and Bush Food Study Tour to South Australia as well as successfully using social media to engage a larger audience across a geographically large region.

He has travelled to Katherine to meet with Indigenous ranger groups, pastoralists, and Landcare groups, providing the opportunity to communicate with a greater range of land managers and identify issues unique to their region and presented to over 60 stakeholders at the NRM Southern Forum; speaking about the importance of supporting sustainable agriculture projects across Central Australia, and the challenges facing the region with reduced funds.

An advocate for agroforestry as a way to enhance a properties biodiversity and securing long-term financial gain through diversification, he has worked closely with the industry working group to develop a range of best management guidelines for those wishing to establish a plantation.

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He has also worked closely with Landcare NT, helping them work with their network of community and pastoral groups to develop ideas, knowledge, resources, and resilience to improve the long-term health of natural resources. The epitome of this was the joint delivery between Territory NRM and Landcare NT for the first Landcare NT Forum, which brought together groups from across the Territory to share ideas, discuss projects and successes, and develop their capacity to engage the community.

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

Jacob Betros has gained experience in Landcare from Tasmania, Queensland, and Philippines and now uses this expansive knowledge to implement sustainable agriculture techniques and programmes across the Northern Territory as the NT Regional Landcare Facilitator at Territory NRM. Jacob works to identify and support opportunities for land managers and groups to develop partnerships, access funds, and build capacity and skills to manage natural resources.

He believes natural resource management today is about the people who work on the land, and their ability to be resilient and agile. His breadth of experience, from bottom level tasks such a vegetable picking, all the way to programme planning and project management reflects his ability to implement a holistic and inclusive approach when planning Landcare associated initiatives and sustainable agriculture practices.

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