



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Lenore Hodgkinson, ACT

Category: Australian Government Individual Landcarer

Lenore Hodgkinson's dedication to educating young people about environmental issues has seen her assume a key role in the North Belconnen Landcare Group since its inception in 1995. Leading the group for the past decade, Lenore has made 'Landcare for Littlies' one of the group's signature initiatives. Along with hands-on activities such as weeding and revegetation, local youngsters have learnt about ecosystem functioning and native species in a fun, creative teaching environment. The North Belconnen Junior Landcare Band is one way that Lenore, who frequently recruits from among her piano students, has made the Landcare group a social hub in the Ginninderra Catchment.

Lenore creates a flexible, receptive and welcoming culture that engages busy families, with over 500 young people participating in the Group since it began. Junior Landcarers have collected native seeds, planted native grass and native tree species, and participated in bushfire prevention work by culling long grass. Following their attendance at Landcare activities, kids are able to identify grass and weed species. Local students have undertaken frost protection for young plants, placed tree guards around self-seeded and planted shrubs and trees, and undertaken erosion control through track maintenance.

Lenore has been especially proactive in welcoming parents and children from migrant backgrounds, providing community for families new to Canberra. This inclusiveness has also helped Lenore build partnerships with local schools, scouts' groups and volunteer organisations. Scouts groups have planted riparian species along the creek corridor, and high schoolers have participated in Group activities as work experience students and Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates.

The Landcare community Lenore has created has far-reaching benefits for all ages, helping significantly marginalised groups like people with mental health issues, dementia, Autism, ADHD, and home-schooled children. The Landcare activities provide enormous health benefits and have become an essential, central part of many people's lives.

Lenore also advocates for environmental issues and engages the next generation through the North Belconnen Landcare Facebook group, which has over 125 families involved. Her future-thinking vision and ability to engage local government and community has allowed the Group to thrive under her leadership, laying a sustainable foundation for future generations.

One project contended with unwanted mulch dumpings whose toxins killed all plants. The Landcare organisers decided to rehabilitate the patch. The failure of early plantings gave the area a pockmarked appearance, earning the name of the "lunar patch". Eventually the mulch aged sufficiently and transformed into a thriving community of casuarinas, eucalypts and acacias that tower up to 10m in height and act as a refuge for birds and other native species.

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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In addition to on-ground projects, Lenore is also active in the community as an advocate and fundraiser, manning many fete stalls and organising concerts with her Landcare band, such as performances at the launch of Landcare ACT and annual events. Her tireless work has made natural resource management accessible to all, and ensured that the next generation has the knowledge, skills and passion for the environment to prioritise sustainable practice.

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

Lenore Hodgkinson's dedication to educating young people about environmental issues has seen her assume a key role in the North Belconnen Landcare Group since its inception in 1995. Leading the group for the past decade, Lenore has made 'Landcare for Littlies' one of the group's signature initiatives. Along with hands-on activities such as weeding and revegetation, local youngsters have learnt about ecosystem functioning and native species in a fun, creative teaching environment. Lenore uses social media to engage busy families, with over 450 young people participating in the Group since it began, and has been especially proactive in welcoming parents and children from migrant backgrounds, providing a sense of community for families new to Canberra.

Pull-out quote:

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