



# 2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

**Nominee: FROGS Landcare Inc., NSW**

**Category: Fairfax Landcare Community Group Award**

The Friends and Residents of Goulburn Swamplands (FROGS) Landcare Group are an inspirational group of volunteers who are transforming an abandoned brick pit in the Goulburn CBD – once full of rubbish, pests and weeds – into a beautiful, functioning, natural storm water treatment system; the Goulburn Wetlands. This regional development initiative of the Goulburn Group (TGG) now acts as a natural water collection and filtration site for local storm water, before returning it to the Mulwarree Ponds River with improved water quality for the Sydney Water Catchment.

FROGS Landcare have achieved outstanding environmental outcomes at the Goulburn Wetlands by utilising strong planning processes and incorporating extensive consultation with local environmental experts, council and stakeholders. The partnerships developed and their hard work has inspired the community to get on board and reconnect with the local waterways and natural areas with the site being used for citizen science, bird watching, education and recreation. Local school children can now also enjoy the opportunity to visit the site and participate in environmental studies and activities.

An increase in bird life and biodiversity, improved water quality, improved visual amenity, are just some of the ways the project has been a success, not to mention the enormous positive impact it has had on the local community.

The Goulburn Wetlands is symbolic of a wider concern community members have for remedial action and adaptation to climate change. The project gives the environment a voice so that communities can see what is at stake when it is lost and what a wonderful asset it is when knowledge and community collaboration are used to regenerate it. The wetlands have been a catalyst for new projects in the region, renewing the community's appreciation of the natural environment and local waterways. The Wetlands has been used for Community Fun Runs and has also caught the attention of International and interstate visitors when in the region.

Once heavily infested with weeds and polluted, the 13.5-hectare site has been transformed. The Group installed rock berms, walking and cycling tracks, viewing platforms, bird hides, disability access, onsite parking, and free community WIFI. The site now acts as a natural water collection and filtration site for local storm water returning it to the Mulwarree Ponds River, improving the water quality for the Sydney Water Catchment. With the improved water quality and habitat there has been a dramatic increase in birdlife with up to 128 species recorded at the site.

A weekly newsletter, regular contributions to the local newspapers, social media and a website ensure the wider community is kept up to date with the Group's activities. All members of the community have the opportunity to get involved on the site, whether as passive recreation or volunteer activities. The Group runs weekly volunteer activities inviting schools, TAFE Classes, Farm Management, gardening and Landcare groups to events and field days, whilst group members attend local events and engage the community by speaking at numerous clubs and other Bushcare and Landcare group meetings.

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 the beginning, community support was challenging. However, after hard work from both FROGS and TGG the Group developed a concept and management plan which has the endorsement of the whole community and council. The plan is now a benchmark for council community consolation and has been a catalyst for other Riverland and recreation projects in the area.

The Goulburn Wetlands project has been awarded the Goulburn Mulwaree Council's Local Heritage Awards for natural heritage or restoration work and two FROGS members have been awarded Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards.

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](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au)

## Ends

For further information, photographs or interviews, please contact:

Naomi Straw  
Landcare Australia  
[naomi.straw@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:naomi.straw@landcareaustralia.com.au)  
02 8440 8823

Ray Shiel  
FROGS Landcare Inc  
[derribongp@hotmail.com](mailto:derribongp@hotmail.com)  
0418 235 425

## Web Summary

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