



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Land for Wildlife / Garden for Wildlife Central Australia, NT

Category: Fairfax Landcare Community Group Award

Land for Wildlife and Garden for Wildlife Central Australia (LFW) engages with landholders from diverse regions of Central Australia to work towards a common goal of biodiversity conservation by providing information resources, expert advice, encouragement, and ongoing support in all forms.

Through the hosting of workshops and attending community events, LFW engages the general public about nature conservation, restoration, and land management issues. In recent years, LFW have been responsible for managing the Northern Territory Register of Significant Trees with an emphasis on increasing public interest and publicity. LFW is also responsible for the continuation of the Spotted Turtle-dove Trapping Program in Alice Springs, and assists members with the loan of free feral Cat traps as part of its Domestic Cat Monitoring and Awareness Program in Alice Springs, which engages cat owners about responsible cat management and provides an outstanding avenue to support members of the public to achieve successful natural resource management outcomes in Central Australia.

One way landholders and residents in Central Australia are supported by LFW's programs is by conducting expert land assessments, which include visual inspections of properties and identification of native and introduced flora. LFW identifies potential wildlife inhabiting a property through direct sightings and the observation of traces, tracks, and scats. This service encourages members of the public to conserve habitat and restore degraded areas. At the completion of the identification process, landholders and residents are provided with a detailed report on the findings, which contains specific information about how they can undertake their own natural resource management.

Members of the public also receive access to ongoing expert advice, support and encouragement. In a climate where habitat degradation is of increasing concern – and there are limited funds to support land care initiatives – it is often up to individuals to conserve and restore habitats in any manner they are able. LFW provides an outstanding avenue to support motivated members of the public, to achieve successful natural resource management outcomes in Central Australia.

LFW's face-to-face consultant engages landholders and improves their ability to tackle land management issues, in turn resulting in increased weed removal, as well as feral animal control to reduce introduced predators and herbivores. Connecting properties contribute to the construction of nature corridors in the MacDonnell Ranges Bioregion, allowing wildlife to move freely between hotspots.

In an effort to engage landholders in Central Australia about wildlife conservation and restoration, and encourage them to undertake their own natural resource management practices, LFW has partnered with many other local organisations. In particular, they have worked with other local Landcare groups such as Alice Springs Landcare, Olive Pink Botanic Garden and Arid Lands Environment Centre to host workshops raising awareness about land management issues and other related topics.

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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LFW engages and supports the community to undertake natural resource management activities by sharing success stories and positive outcomes of their initiatives. Outcomes are shared on a regular basis via website-based blogs, monthly newsletters, social media, and attending networking forums and events.

An ongoing challenge for LFW is the retention of members, due to the transient nature of the Alice Springs population. Many of the long-term residents to the region are LFW members, and their ongoing land management efforts are an excellent source of encouragement to new members.

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, please contact:

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Web Summary

Land for Wildlife and Garden for Wildlife Central Australia (LFW) engages with landholders in urban Alice Springs and surrounding peri-urban, Aboriginal lands and rural properties to work towards a common goal of biodiversity conservation by providing information resources, expert advice, encouragement and on-going support in all forms. The organisation engages the general public about nature conservation, restoration and land management issues by hosting workshops and attending community events, and managing the Northern Territory Register of Significant Trees.

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