



# 2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

**Nominee: Josephine Grant, NT**

**Category: Rio Tinto Indigenous Land Management Award**

Josephine Grant is an inspiration to all Indigenous women who work in Land Management/Looking After Country. Since becoming a ranger in 2012 with the Central Land Council Murru-Warinyi Ankkul Group in Tennant Creek, she has progressed to the position of a program-wide support officer and is the first Indigenous woman to be employed as a ranger group coordinator within the Central Land Council (CLC).

She has strong cultural skills and knowledge, particularly around bush medicines and useful plants. She has also all the operational tickets and qualifications to undertake all ranger tasks, is completing her Certificate IV in contaminated land management, and now manages the Anmatyerr Ranger Group based in Ti Tree. Through her cultural, environmental, gender leadership, and achievements across vast areas of Aboriginal Land throughout the NT, Josephine proves to many younger Indigenous women that with hard work and a passion for culture and Country you can make a difference.

Within the Muru-Warinyi Ankkul group in Tennant Creek, Josephine learned all the skills and abilities needed to be a safe and productive ranger. Her work consists of; winter burning as protection against wildfire, management of weed and feral animal incursion to sites and Country, and bringing together existing knowledge systems to achieve contemporary cultural and natural resource outcomes.

Josephine is multi-skilled, able to lead survey work, track animals, manage data collected – particularly around mapping weeds – manage cultural knowledge trips and intergenerational ecological knowledge transfer documentation, create and manage conferences, school and public presentations, operate all the relevant machinery, and work well in very diverse situations. In her current job, Josephine works with Traditional Land Owners to develop annual work plans then manages a group of men and women rangers to implement the projects and report on progress. She has demonstrated great leadership and ability across diverse types of work with many different people and engages with external stakeholders in a consistent, respectful, and confident manner.

Josephine has a strong knowledge of medicinal and edible or useable plants across large tracts of the NT, this knowledge coming from her upbringing in the bush and her continuous connection to Country. She also has great traditional and contemporary knowledge of the use of fire in the landscape which, when coupled with modern technology including aerial incendiary burning, allows Josie to be part of a team achieving long-term land management and cultural outcomes. Often Traditional Owners will work with Josephine, using helicopters to identify sites and areas to be protected by ground burning prior to large-scale aerial burning. She not only knows the stories and the country from the Traditional Owners but is rated to operate the aerial incendiary equipment and has conducted many such burns. In recent times this has also been involved in supporting a carbon abatement contract with a group of Traditional Owners to the North West of Tennant Creek.

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Josephine is a major role model for other women rangers within the CLC groups always being demand at annual Ranger Camps, sharing her stories with other rangers. There are many of our women rangers who use Josephine as inspiration to keep going when things get tough and they regularly tell other staff about her positive impact on them personally and professionally.

Josephine has had a significant impact in many communities as she has worked across the CLC region. She has worked with nearly all 10 ranger group communities during her time as a program support officer, which has spread her influence to well over half the NT. The positive impact Josephine has made stems from both her personality and style as well as her ability to engage people and share her considerable knowledge and expertise to facilitate local outcomes.

In recent times Josephine has been interviewed and featured in several public news items on radio and social media. She actively supports the Country Needs People initiative; promoting Indigenous Rangers and Protected Areas funding and has briefed local and federal politicians about the work of Rangers on Country and the importance to her community. Josephine justly deserves all the recognition she gets as she shares her cultural and practical ranger skills with so many across such a vast area of Australia.

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

## Ends

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## Web Summary

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