



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Bob Shepherd, QLD

Category: Australian Government Individual Landcarer

Bob Shepherd has devoted his free time to the Dalrymple Landcare Committee for decades. The Committee was founded in 1988 as a result of the degraded condition of the Upper Burdekin catchment, and over the following ten years 22 sub-catchment groups were formed in the Dalrymple Shire. Bob assisted each in a secretarial role, carrying out grant writing, project implementation, field day organisation and expert extension and technical advice.

Bob was heavily involved in the amalgamation of various sub catchment groups into larger management groups. This consolidation facilitated large on-ground projects, such as: riparian fencing for water quality and weed management with long-term unemployed people, weed mapping and control, pasture and water quality monitoring, salinity risk assessment, and biodiversity monitoring.

In the Cape Campaspe catchment group alone, an excess of \$6 million in Landcare funds was expended on projects over ten years in the late 1990s and mid-2000s. Bob was responsible for the application of these funds, as well as for oversight on projects and reporting back to government.

Bob's knowledge and relationships with producers within the catchments gave the projects real credibility among the landholder community and within the funding bodies. When grants came through for riparian fencing, Bob was frequently able to convince producers to go beyond fence-building and install monitoring sites to monitor pasture change, erosion control banks, and move water points away from vulnerable areas close to stream banks.

In addition to his role of secretary, Bob has delivered countless workshops, coordinated demonstration sites and organised field days for graziers. Every year he joins Dalrymple Landcare Pasture Budgeting program coordinator in training graziers in pasture budgeting to determine appropriate stocking rates for local graziers.

Bob regularly presents at Dalrymple Landcare Committee (DLC) field days, and is instrumental in supporting an annual farm open day, the DLC City Country Day, where local properties open their doors to interested city folks. The initiative promotes the work of the DLC, and showcases sustainable grazing and cropping practices that members are implementing in the Upper Burdekin region. As part of the Reef Guardian School program Bob also regularly addresses primary and secondary student groups on sustainable production, weed control as well running short field-trips on land use, soil erosion, pasture management and water quality issues.

Bob has long trained Landcare coordinators and DLC project officers. Every Landcare volunteer in the Charters Towers region since 1988 has benefited from his knowledge of improved grazing land management practices, soil conservation and weed mapping and biodiversity enhancement. The range of groups Bob has volunteered for has made him well placed to foster involvement from new Landcare participants. Producers have come and gone from committee involvement and management, but Bob has been a mainstay for 30 years.

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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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

Bob Shepherd has devoted his free time to the Dalrymple Landcare Committee since it was founded in 1988. Bob was heavily involved in the amalgamation of various sub catchment groups into larger management groups, a consolidation which facilitated large on-ground projects such as riparian fencing for water quality and weed management, pasture and water quality monitoring, salinity risk assessment and biodiversity monitoring. In the Cape Campaspe catchment group alone, an excess of \$6 million in Landcare funds was expended on projects over ten years in the late 1990s. Bob was responsible for the application of these funds, as well as for oversight on projects and reporting back to government. His relationships with producers gave the projects real credibility among the landholder community and within the funding bodies.

Pull-out quote:

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