



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Woodside Coastal Guardians Program, WA

Category: Coastcare Award

In 2011 Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and Woodside Energy (Woodside) founded the Woodside Coastal Guardians Program (Coastal Guardians), with the mission of inspiring and empowering communities to make a positive contribution to the conservation of Australia's coastline.

Since inception, Coastal Guardians has mobilised over 6900 volunteers, helping to deliver and achieve meaningful conservation objectives across 61 locations. Now focused on Western Australia (WA), the program is in its eighth year of operation and continues to provide on-ground leadership to local government, community groups and land care managers.

Coastal Guardian's volunteers have planted over 67,000 stems, removed over 12,600 kilograms of marine debris and erected more than 4500 metres of fencing, helping to protect, maintain and restore coastal ecosystems. Volunteers have assisted with seed collection and analysis, walking trail and boardwalk maintenance, biological surveys and turtle monitoring. All volunteers are trained in conservation activities, safety and briefed on why the activity is important. CVA's Conservation Officers attend stalls and exhibitions to encourage new volunteers and communicate the importance of coastal conservation to inspire action.

By providing on-ground environmental leadership, the program builds capacity and capability, empowering communities to achieve conservation objectives across WA. The program has worked with over 35 Landcare groups, including local government organisations (such as the Cities of Karratha, Rockingham, and Fremantle), government bodies (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions and Perth NRM), not-for-profit community groups (such as Friends of Fremantle Beaches and Cottesloe Coastcare) and Indigenous corporations (such as Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation) to restore degraded coastal zones, improve habitat for flora and fauna and enhance biodiversity along coastal corridors.

The provision of volunteer resources has helped land managers achieve objectives of environmental management plans and the completion of large-scale and long-term projects. Coastal Guardians has assisted local stakeholders with coastal corridor rehabilitation and connectivity improvement in the Perth metropolitan region, bushfire and disaster recovery in Margaret River, and marine debris and invasive weed removal in Jurien Bay, Exmouth, and Karratha.

By creating an ecosystem whereby partners in need of assistance can connect with motivated people willing to volunteer their time and skills, the Coastal Guardians has been able to make a meaningful contribution to conservation across WA.

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

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Ends

For further information, photographs or interviews contact:

Naomi Straw
Landcare Australia
naomi.straw@landcareaustralia.com.au
02 8440 8823

Woodside Coastal Guardians Program
Clemency Whittles
cwhittles@cva.org.au
0427 533 002

Web summary:

With a mission to achieve conservation objectives along WA's coastline, the Woodside Coastal Guardians Program has spearheaded 896 field days since its inception, with over 6900 volunteers working across 61 locations. Each volunteer is provided with onsite training and thoroughly briefed on each project, and each is trained in Conservation Volunteers Australia's safety systems and project management methods. Volunteers have planted 67,361 stems, removed 12,685 kilograms of marine debris, and erected more than four kilometres of fence line to prevent footprint degradation to dune systems. Volunteers have also assisted with seed collection and analysis, walking trail and boardwalk maintenance, and biological surveys and turtle monitoring.

Pull quote:

The provision of volunteer resources to undertake activities such as erosion control has helped over 38 land managers to implement environmental management plans.

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

