



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Moore Catchment Council Inc., WA

Category: Fairfax Landcare Community Group Award

The Moore Catchment Council (MCC) is a community-led, not-for-profit organisation set up in 1995 to “maintain and improve the health of the Moore River environment by communicating natural resource management and encouraging maximum sustainable use of resources.”

Working at a grassroots level to maintain and repair the Moore’s natural environment, MCC encourages sustainable farming and land management practices and builds community capacity in conserving the Moore River catchment against current and impending threats.

Achievements include the successful completion of 60 projects to the value of \$5.7 million over the past 23 years, with 13 more projects in progress. MCC prides itself on effective and productive stakeholder engagement with local government departments, industry, community members and groups, landholders, and Aboriginal community.

MCC has developed good relations with all major stakeholder bodies and community groups in the catchment to ensure effective project delivery. Partnerships are paramount to good project delivery. MCC actively seeks good information and best practice through NACC, departments, industry, as well as localised knowledge through the Yued community and community advisers.

MCC believes good communication is vital for encouraging others to participate in Landcare. The Group communicates its news, ideas, projects, and results through multi-format media and community engagement events; including field days, workshops, bus trips, and one-one visits. MCC trusts the best way to communicate with farmers is through farmers, and therefore actively partners with growers’ group, Moora Milling Pasture Improvement Group (MMPIG), to deliver farmer workshops and field days.

MCC's also utilises other local Landcare groups such as Chittering Landcare Centre and Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group to help communicate natural resource management news and ideas. Some of MCC’s current key priorities are: creating Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo forage and breeding habitat, planting multi-beneficial shrub systems on farms, rehabilitating degraded coastal environments, and engaging the local Aboriginal Yued community through knowledge sharing activities and providing Working on Country opportunities. As a not-for-profit group, MCC is reliant on funding to employ staff and run Landcare projects. Employed staff are essential to oversee projects and organise volunteers.

Sourcing ongoing funding is the primary challenge for MCC. Current funding is being received from the State NRM Program, National Landcare Program and some of the Shires in the catchment. To meet funding needs, MCC has had to adapt by applying to a multitude of different grant programs which requires the group to tailor its aims to funding available.

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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Eco-tourism is a growing market in the region and MCC has tapped into eco-tourism by creating walk trails and interpretive signage and booklets. Recognising that government funding is essential to MCC's survival, a strategy and sponsorship package has been developed.

Due to the environmental economic downturn, volunteers are increasingly relied on to help deliver projects. They are an invaluable source of help in completing MCC projects, but coordination by MCC staff is still needed to ensure good outcomes. To continue to deliver projects and help spread costs, MCC is always seeking sponsorship and partnerships.

With limited resources and a drive to be efficient, creative, and innovative, the Group's work ute has been creatively converted to carry over 2000 seedlings for delivery – twice the number it could previously carry – and as a result, the number of delivery trips has been halved.

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

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