



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Clean4Shore, NSW
Category: Coastcare Award

Clean4Shore leads up to 70 field trips a year, engaging the community, school, disability, indigenous and business groups in the removal of plastic and polystyrene around the Hawkesbury River, Brisbane Waters and Tuggerah Lakes.

Volunteer groups led by Clean4Shore remove garbage from waterways while simultaneously educating themselves about the Central Coast foreshores and mangroves. Corporate partners attending Clean4Shore field trips have also learnt about the effects of marine litter. This growing awareness has been reflected in evaluation reports and corporate feedback and fundraising. In 2016, 554 volunteers participated in 67 field trips, with 182,800 litter items removed.

These items are often found deep in the mangroves, unseen from the foreshore. One field trip in Narara Creek saw the removal of ten thousand plastic bottles and polystyrene from a small area close to the Gosford CBD. Microplastics remain within these mangroves, in addition to tyres, chemical bottles, drums, batteries and oil containers. The toxic nature of these and other items has, in turn, required coordinated collection and disposal planning on the part of Clean4Shore organisers.

Local anglers, kayakers, and commercial operators have been briefed on the Group's efforts, and monitoring data suggests that litter from these waterway users has declined. At the same time a scarcity of litter traps, especially upstream in the Hawkesbury and in Brisbane waters, has led to an increase in road and residential rubbish swept up by stormwater and into the waterways.

Clean4Shore's annual reports tally the total litter items collected. In 2016, this list included 33,360 plastic bottles, 26,818 bits of plastic bag and 26,393 pieces of polystyrene. Collected litter is itemised, providing data on location, type of litter, numbers, and weight. The information is forwarded to the Australian Marine Institute through the Tangaroa Blue Foundation. This data is then disseminated to stakeholders, who are able to formulate management plans to address litter issues and inform funding agreements.

Indigenous groups attend Clean4Shore forums and field trips, removing larger items and receiving mentoring. In 2016 the Group also spearheaded ten field trips by Green Army teams. This required funding agreements with Councils, high attention to risk management and documented evaluations. In addition to coordinating these field trips, Clean4Shore has also partnered with high schools in the region, including schools in Hornsby and Wyong Shires, to cultivate the next generation of coastal custodians.

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

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Web summary:

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