



2021 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LANDCARE AWARDS

ACT Landcare Awards Winners Announced

11 March 2022

The outstanding contributions of individuals, schools, groups and organisations in caring for the land and water in the ACT Region were recognised and celebrated at the 2021 ACT Landcare Awards, held last night at Gold Creek Station, Hall.

The 2021 awards were delayed due to COVID, and over 120 attendees were pleased to celebrate the awards, which support knowledge sharing and achievements while promoting community leadership and resilience.

“It was a wonderful evening where we celebrated the Landcare movement and acknowledged some truly remarkable contributions,” said Landcare ACT CEO, Karissa Preuss.

“In the ACT, there are many thousands of individuals and over 70 groups who are dedicated to caring for the natural assets of our bush capital. This event was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the work of these Landcare volunteers.”

“We received 37 nominations in 11 categories, and it wasn't an easy task for the judges to decide on the winners. The winners of many of the 2021 ACT Landcare Awards will go forward as nominees for the 2022 National Landcare Awards to be held on Wednesday 24 August 2022 in Sydney,” said Ms Preuss.

“Every one of the nominees for this award deserved to win. It's incredible to see the changes that are possible when a group of passionate Landcarers and volunteers work to heal the land and our beautiful waterways,” said Deb Kellock, winner of the Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award.

“This award is special because it acknowledges the hard work and commitment from our whole school community to leaving the world a better, greener and more sustainable place,” said Tania Collis, Principal of North Ainslie Public School, winner of the Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award.

The ACT Landcare Awards are proudly supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Australian Community Media, KPMG Australia, Steadfast, Woolworths, Landcare Australia, the National Landcare Network, the ACT Government, and Landcare ACT.

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WINNERS

- **ACM Landcare Community Group Award** - Friends of Mount Majura
- **Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award** - Deb Kellock
- **Australian Government Landcare Farming Award** - Mount Majura Vineyard
- **Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award** - The ACT Healthy Waterways partnership between the Southern ACT Catchment Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group, Molonglo Conservation Group and ACT Government
- **KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award** - Karen Denny
- **Steadfast Young Landcare Leadership Award** - Fred McGrath Weber
- **Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award** - North Ainslie Primary School and P&C
- **ACT Government Citizen Science Award** - Dr Rosemary Purdie
- **ACT Government Quiet Achiever Award** - Gudgenby Bush Regenerators Group
- **Landcare ACT Photography Awards – Amateur** - Jim Lehane
- **Landcare ACT Photography Awards – Professional** - Ian Houghton

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Awards images for publication:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y62jvctdhvwwil0/AACz8ZFesHHT1a3pV8FLxYq9a?dl=0>

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2021 ACT Landcare Award Winners

Category: ACM Landcare Community Group Award

Winner: Friends of Mount Majura

Over the last 18 years, Friends of Mount Majura has contributed significantly to rehabilitating and protecting critically endangered ecological communities through persistent, inclusive and innovative on-the-ground activities and political lobbying and education. Volunteers have improved several degraded areas in the Mount Majura Nature Reserve, including two sheep camps, a former horse paddock, and dams.

The group's main activities involve large-scale tree and shrub plantings, woody and herbaceous weed control, erosion control measures, and direct seeding and soil improvement using woodchip mulch and coarse woody debris. Activities have involved many volunteers in consultation with ACT Parks & Conservation Service and local Landcare network Molonglo Conservation Group.

Category: Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award

Winner: Deb Kellock

Deb Kellock has worked across the Landcare and Waterwatch space for 20 years and has always gone the extra mile for the land and rivers she cares deeply about. In 2001, she became a volunteer for the Parkcarers for Southern Murrumbidgee, putting in around 1,000 hours of her time, cutting and spraying weeds, controlling erosion and planting native species.

While volunteering, Deb discovered the Waterwatch program, which led her to become the Waterwatch Coordinator with the Molonglo Catchment Group for over six years. Deb has extensive knowledge of the ACT region's environment and wishes to share her knowledge with others.

Category: Australian Government Landcare Farming Award

Winner: Mount Majura Vineyard

Since planting its first vines in 1988, Mount Majura Vineyard has demonstrated quality, environmental sustainability, innovation, community commitment, and leadership in wine production. Mount Majura Vineyard uses ecological knowledge and principles to make grape growing and winemaking more sustainable.

They demonstrate innovation in their research and development program, the grape varieties grown, and the management of soil, nutrients, pests and groundcover. They also engage with the local Majura Valley community, the ACT and region communities, and the Canberra District winemaking community to share knowledge, experiences, and mutual support.

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Category: Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award

Winner: The ACT Healthy Waterways partnership between the Southern ACT Catchment Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group, Molonglo Conservation Group and ACT Government

The ACT Healthy Waterways partnership between the Southern ACT Catchment Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group, Molonglo Conservation Group, and ACT Government, has engaged more Canberrans in urban Landcare, increased stormwater literacy, reduced reduction stormwater pollution, and improved the amenity and ecological health of waterways.

Through this coordinated approach, residents around most of the large ACT Healthy Waterways sites have had an opportunity to learn more about the sites' purpose, structure, and function. This approach has been paired with education on stormwater in general to increase awareness of 'what Canberra residents can do' to improve catchment health.

Category: KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award

Winner: Karen Denny

Karen Denny is a Ngunawal woman and a member of the Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, which is committed to protecting and conserving the cultural heritage of the Ngunawal people for future generations.

Karen has raised public awareness of traditional women's culture to protect and care of Ngunawal cultural places in the natural environment. She mentors the ACT Landcare community to protect and care for women's cultural places by advising natural resource management activities and leading women's walks on Country and children's educational activities. Karen represents on committees advising Landcare ACT and the ACT Government on Ngunawal women's cultural matters.

Category: Steadfast Young Landcare Leadership Award

Winner: Fred McGrath Weber

Fred McGrath Weber is an influential leader in the ACT, bridging the gap between conservation, community and place-making, and entrepreneurship. Fred lives and works on his family farm, Majura Valley Free Range Eggs, and designs and builds mobile egg laying sheds.

As an active member of the Landcare ACT Members Council and President of the Rural Landholder's Association (RLA), he has improved communications between RLA and other environmental partners. Fred has been integral in efforts to conserve the farming heritage of the Majura Valley region and exemplifies the future of our Bush Capital, as both an advocate and innovator.

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Category: Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award

Winner: North Ainslie Primary School and P&C

North Ainslie Primary School prioritises sustainability, connection, and caring for nature as a community. The school has an active P&C that has spearheaded several projects which focus on creating green spaces and regenerating the school grounds.

The school runs an educational program called PACH - Personal and Community Health - which focuses on sustainability, gardening knowledge and skills. Classroom teachers teach units of inquiry that focus on Sharing the Planet and being active environmental conscious citizens. The student-led Green Team runs a garden club and other initiatives. North Ainslie Primary is committed to promoting sustainability, environmental stewardship and on-the-ground action.

Category: ACT Government Citizen Science Award

Winner: Dr Rosemary Purdie

Rosemary is a plant ecologist with a particular interest in fire ecology, arid ecosystems and nature conservation. She is a dedicated citizen scientist. In addition to her volunteer work with Friends of Black Mountain and Vegwatch, Rosemary co-wrote Black Mountain a natural history of a Canberra icon, with Ian Fraser. It is based on the symposium papers from the Black Mountain Symposium 2018, which she also helped organise. She is an asset to the ACT - please join me in congratulating Dr Rosemary Purdie.

Category: ACT Government Quiet Achiever Award

Winner: Gudgenby Bush Regenerators Group

The group was established in 1998 to involve the community in the task of rehabilitating land formerly occupied by a pine plantation in Namadgi National Park. The group is a member of Southern ACT Catchment Group and closely associated with ACT National Parks Association. The innumerable hours and person-days of work dedicated to the project have resulted in the landscape that you see today at Gudgenby. This is testament to what can be achieved in a community-government partnership and how an exotic landscape can be successfully returned to a native one.

Gudgenby has been in many respects a ground-breaking leader in this type of revegetation project. Namadgi National Park's natural values have been enhanced by the work done by the group, and Namadgi's place in the chain of Australian Alps National Parks has been heightened as a result.

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