

Media Release

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Celebrating 30 Years: In 2019, NSW needs Landcare now more than ever

This month, Landcare celebrates its 30-year national anniversary.

On July 20 1989, the late former Prime Minister Bob Hawke delivered his speech to launch the national formation of the Landcare movement, an unprecedented union between farmers and conservationists to help protect the Australian landscape for future generations.

Three decades later, Landcare has evolved into a national movement of over 6,000 groups and hundreds of thousands of volunteers, all playing a central role in sustainable agricultural practices and conservation activities, while also developing and enhancing community spirit.

But with the threat of climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution, it's clear Australia needs Landcare now more than ever.

'For 30 years, the Landcare movement has made Australia a better place by directly working with local communities to build more sustainable environments and agricultural practices,' said Dr Adrian Zammit, CEO of Landcare NSW, 'but we're only getting started.'

'It is vital that rural and urban communities continue to work together to protect natural resources and promote sustainable land management now and into the future.

'Landcare offers every Australian the chance to make a real difference. Thousands of active Landcare groups operate across NSW, boasting tens of thousands of dedicated, passionate volunteers working together on a vast range of projects. From sustainable land use education to waterways restoration and feral pest management, the Landcare community are the leaders in this field,' said Dr Zammit.

'A significant project by one of our member groups - Building Bridges to Boorowa - is a unique Landcare partnership that brings together like-minded people from the city and country. For the past 20 years, Bushcare volunteers from North Sydney Council have travelled five hours to Boorowa in south-west New South Wales to spend three days assisting landholders with revegetation projects. Over the years, the tree planting partnership has seen more than 60,000 native trees, shrubs and ground covers planted on local properties. The results have helped reduce soil salinity and erosion, restored habitat, improved water quality and created wildlife corridors.'

A joint initiative between [North Sydney Council](#), [Boorowa Community Landcare Group \(BCLG\)](#) and [Hilltops Council](#), [Building Bridges to Boorowa](#) is an ambitious project which perfectly represents the heart, dedication and resilience of the Landcare ethos.

Dr Adrian Zammit and Building Bridges to Boorowa spokesperson from North Sydney Council are available for media opportunities

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****The 2019 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference will be held at Broken Hill from 22 to 24 October****

For more info visit <https://nswlandcareconference.com.au/>

About Landcare:

Landcare is a grassroots movement of individuals and groups with a shared vision to restore and protect the environment in their local community through sustainable land management and conservation activities. Over the past 30 years, Landcare has evolved into a powerful movement of volunteers and facilitators who give their time, skill and expertise for the benefit of the environment and the communities that seek to protect it. Landcare plays a leading role in advocating a balance between sustainable land management practices and environmental conservation. From the coast to the country, and from cities to the outback, Landcare's greatest asset is its people. With over 6,000 groups and 100,000+ volunteers, the landcare movement is diverse and encompasses sustainable farmers, landcare groups and networks, Indigenous landcare, Bushcare and 'Friends of' groups, Coastcare, Dunecare and Rivercare groups, Junior Landcare (including early learning childhood centres, schools, Scouts, Girl Guides and youth groups) and other community groups involved in restoring and protecting their local environment. What makes landcare unique to any other community movement is the partnerships created between business, researchers, natural resource management agencies, government and community. These partnerships build local community ownership of issues, unlock volunteer knowledge, capability and capacity to create better outcomes for the environment and those that seek to protect and enhance it.

About Landcare Australia:

Landcare Australia is the national not-for profit that works in partnership with multiple stakeholders to support the landcare community with funding and capacity building opportunities. Landcare Australia develops campaigns to raise awareness of landcare to increase participation and to attract corporate and philanthropic support. Custodian of the 'caring hands' logo, Landcare Australia is a multi-partisan organisation that manages the Landcare, Coastcare and Junior Landcare brands on behalf of the Landcare movement. Landcare Australia is also a service provider and delivers major projects including the Federal Government's 20 Million Trees program. For 30 years, Landcare Australia has worked collaboratively with federal, state and local governments, corporate partners, sponsors, other environmental agencies, community groups and individuals to support the landcare community. The funding supports the landcare community to achieve a diverse range of positive outcomes. These include a sustainable approach to integrated land management, natural habitat restoration, enhancing biodiversity, building resilience in Australia's food and farming systems, and creating social cohesion and wellbeing in communities.

The National Landcare Network, Landcare Australia, the Landcare State & Territory Organisation:

Over the last 30 years these organisations have worked together to represent and support the thousands of landcare groups, facilitators and volunteers across Australia who protect the environment in their local communities through sustainable land management and conservation activities.