

Date: 30 June 2009

2009 NSW LANDCARE AWARDS

2009 celebrates the 20th year of Landcare in Australia, a great reason to celebrate the achievements of the local Landcare community. These awards provide an opportunity to showcase individual Landcarers and Landcare projects in the central west catchment.

The 2009 NSW Landcare Awards is hosted by the Natural Resources Advisory Council (NRAC) in partnership with NSW Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's), Landcare Australia Limited (LAL), the NSW Landcare Committee and the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

NRAC is an independent high level advisory Council that represents all stakeholders associated with natural resource management in NSW - it provides an effective voice for stakeholders in NSW.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to nominate in one of 11 Awards categories that cover work protecting individual farms, rivers, coastal and urban environments, threatened species, local government areas and even whole catchments. Nominations are open to anyone.

For example the Central West CMA last year was proud to support two NSW State Landcare Award winners to attend and participate in the National Landcare Awards in Canberra. The catchment was represented at the National Landcare Awards by John Blunt, winner of the NSW Individual Landcare Award category and Orange City Council winner for the NSW Local Government Landcare and Community Partnership Award.

Past winner John Blunt said, "It has been a great honour entering the NSW Landcare Awards where I personally benefited by sharing my land management experiences with others in tackling environmental issues and achieving some major improvements on my property."

The Landcare Awards recognise the commitment and efforts of the many grassroots volunteers who have tirelessly managed and cared for our lands.

The closing date for nominations is the **10 July 2009**. For entry forms and an information brochure visit www.landcareheroes.com or call 02 66270225.

Finalists will be invited to attend the NSW Landcare Awards dinner and ceremony at Panthers in Port Macquarie on the 10 September 2009. The winners of each Award category will go on to represent NSW at the National Landcare Awards to be held in Canberra in 2010.

The NSW Awards ceremony is a highlight of the 2009 Landcare Catchment Management Forum *Landscapes, Communities and Resilience-Weathering Change* hosted by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority on the 9th, 10th and 11th September 2009 at The Glasshouse in Port Macquarie. For more information go to www.northernrcma.nsw.gov.au

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